

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Worship Presider: Elder Eric Bancroft

One of the most beautiful sentences in the Bible is that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim 1:15). What is sin? Sin is a mindset that prefers other things more than God, and therefore sin exchanges God for created things. And therefore sin belittles God, demeans God, is rebellious against God.

That's who we are — every one of you. We are that way. “None is righteous, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10). **Christ died for us, not because we are worthy, but because we are unworthy**, and there was no other way for us to be made worthy.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:6-8).

We are saved by *grace*. The death of Jesus is not divine compliance with fair trade laws. It wasn't a fair trade. The Son of God died; rebels live. That's not fair. That's grace, and that's how I stand here. ...

All because of the cross. That's paradox: We're unworthy of the cross — *and*, because of the cross, we are worthy.

—John Piper on My Worth is Not My Own

Sing Praise to the Lord

Call to Worship

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!
**Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,
to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**
There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.
**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you!
Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!”**
For my brothers and companions’ sake I will say, “Peace be within you!”
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

The Night Song

In the darkness God will keep me, He will stay and never sleep
In the darkness God is brighter, Though the night is long and deep

*All this day Your hand has held me
God of Heaven, by my side
Thank you, Father, for Your goodness
You will hold me through the night*

In the shadows You are with me, And you know my every fear
In the shadows none can harm me, For the mighty King is here
Refrain

So I find my rest in Jesus, He who came to rescue me
Jesus saved me from the darkness, I will rise to life with him
Refrain (twice)

Prayer of Invocation

We ask God’s presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Recount the Wonders of His Mercy

Call to Confession

Isaiah 30:1, 9, 12-13, 15

“Ah, stubborn children,” declares the LORD, “who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; for they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, “Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; for thus said the LORD God, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength,” but you were unwilling.

Prayer of Confession

Holy One,

We confess that we are people who do not trust you. We are stubborn and rebellious, habitually unwilling to hear your loving, Fatherly instruction. We have repeatedly despised your words, and have even despised your incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, pursuing him to death. We have carried out our own plans for our lives, disregarding your loving plan, or treating it as second best when that plan involves pain or not getting what we want. When we suffer, we lose confidence that you love us and experience spiritual amnesia, living as orphans. We have trusted in our desires for physical and emotional comfort, approval from others, health, wealth, success or intimacy. We have relied on the perverseness of abusing food, drink, sexuality, or other people to bring us peace. We often do not return to you; we frequently do not rest in you; we seldom are quiet before you; and we consistently do not trust you. Please help us in our helplessness, Lord!

Dear Jesus, what a specific, staggering, atoning love you have shown us in the midst of our weakness. On our behalf, you flawlessly trusted your Father. You relied perfectly on his Spirit, and were willing to obey every element of every law, command, and instruction. Your love for us and your trust of your Father caused you to be silent before your false accusers, enduring torturous punishment for sins you did not commit. The sins you were dying for were ours, and we are eternally, deeply grateful for this inconceivable act of love. Because you took on our sin, becoming an orphan as you were abandoned by your Father, we will never be orphans again. Our sins, though like scarlet, are now as white as snow before the judgment seat, washed in the cleansing, healing stream of the blood drawn from your veins.

Help us, our Father, to trust you in the midst of this earthly life. We grow weary, and our strength is small as we fight against the sin in our hearts and in the hearts of others. Help us to find our all in all in no less than Jesus Christ himself. Cause us to live so that others would see that the strength to trust you could never come from us. Help us to sing salvation songs at the midnight of our sufferings. Awaken us to trust you in the midst of this prison of sinful flesh, and remind us that our freedom has fully and finally been bought by the precious blood of Jesus. In his name we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 30:18, 29

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept, and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold, through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.*

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.

Refrain

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, he will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last!

Refrain

(Children may be excused to YWIT class.)

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 9:37-50

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. ⁴⁰ And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.” ⁴⁵ But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

⁴⁶ An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

⁴⁹ John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

Sermon

“The Majesty of God”

Reverend Bob Schmidtberger

There is a Fountain

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel’s veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.
Washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away;
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.
Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

E’er since, by faith, I saw the stream thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

When this poor lisping, stammering tongue lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler sweeter song I'll sing thy power to save.
I'll sing thy power to save; I'll sing thy power to save.
Then in a nobler sweeter song, I'll sing thy power to save.

*Washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away;
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.*

Receive the Gifts of His Grace

The Lord's Supper

All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The cups with lighter liquid contain grape juice, the darker liquid is wine. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.

Song of Preparation:

Oh the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love
Leading onward, leading homeward to thy glorious rest above!

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore!
How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore!
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean full of blessing, 'tis a haven giving rest!
Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
All you who hear, now to his temple draw near; praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning,
Shelt'ring you under his wings, and so gently sustaining;
Have you not seen? All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining.

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you;
Rescued and healed, and when helplessly falling has stayed you.
What need or grief ever has failed of relief? Wings of his mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who does prosper your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around you are raging,
Tells them to cease, then turns their fury to peace, whirlwinds and waters
assuaging.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again, gladly forever adore him!

Benediction

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