

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Worship Presider: Elder Ken Brown

We are all by nature blind and poor. It is true we account ourselves able enough to see; but this is just one phase of our blindness. Our blindness is of such a kind that it makes us think our vision perfect; whereas, when we are enlightened by the Holy Spirit, we discover our previous sight to have been blindness indeed. Spiritually, we are blind; we are unable to discern our lost estate; unable to conceive the blackness of sin, or the terrors of the wrath to come. The unrenewed mind is so blind, that it perceives not the all-attractive beauty of Christ; the Sun of righteousness may arise with healing beneath his wings, but this is all in vain for those who cannot see his shining. Christ may do many mighty works in their presence, but they do not recognise his glory; we are blind until he has opened our eyes. But besides being blind we are also by nature poor. Our father Adam spent our birthright, lost our estates. Paradise, the homestead of our race, has become dilapidated, and we are left in the depths of beggary without anything with which we may buy bread for our hungry souls, or clothing for our naked spirits; blindness and beggary are the lot of all men after a spiritual fashion, till Jesus visits them in love.

—Charles Spurgeon

We Gaze Upon the Risen Lord in Worship

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 42:5-9

This is what God the LORD says, “He who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

‘I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness, I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.’”

All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with joy, his praise forth tell, come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise, approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good; his mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

Prayer of Invocation

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

Confess Your Blindness to God's Mercy

Call to Confession

1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

Prayer of Confession

(adapted from *The Valley of Vision*)

O Holy Spirit,

As the sun is full of light, the ocean full of water, heaven full of glory, so may our hearts be full of you. Vain are all divine purposes of love and the redemption wrought by Jesus unless you work within, regenerating by your power, giving us eyes to see Jesus, showing us the realities of the unseen world. Give us yourself without measure, as an unimpaired fountain, as inexhaustible riches.

I grieve my coldness, poverty, emptiness, imperfect vision, languid service, prayerless prayers, praiseless praises. Suffer me not to grieve or resist you.

Come as power, to expel every rebel lust, to reign supreme and keep me;

Come as teacher, leading me into all truth, filling me with understanding;

Come as love, that I may adore the Father, and love him as my all;

Come as joy, to dwell in me, move in me, animate me;

Come as light, illuminating the Scripture, molding me in its laws;

Come as sanctifier, body, soul, and spirit wholly yours;

Come as helper, with strength to bless and keep, directing me every step;

Come as beautifier; bringing order out of confusion, loveliness out of chaos.

Magnify to me your glory by being magnified in me, and make me perfumed by your fragrance which is mine in the Lord Jesus, in whose name we pray, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 5:8-14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

What the Lord Has Done In Me

Let the weak say, "I am strong." Let the poor say, "I am rich."

Let the blind say, "I can see; it's what the Lord has done in me." (*Twice*)

Hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb that was slain.

Hosanna, hosanna, Jesus died and rose again.

Into the river I will wade. There my sins are washed away.
From the heavens mercy streams of the Savior's love for me. *Refrain*

I will rise from waters deep into the saving arms of God.
I will sing salvation songs; Jesus Christ has set me free! *Refrain*

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-41

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

Sermon

“A Man Born Blind” Reverend Tony Cowley

Psalm 23

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie,
In pastures green; he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill:
For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore my dwelling-place shall be.

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:

Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands

Amidst us our Beloved stands, and bids us view his pierced hands;
Points to the wounded feet and side, blest emblems of the Crucified.

What food luxurious loads the board, when at his table sits the Lord!
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet, when Jesus deigns the guests to meet.

If now, with eyes defiled and dim, we see the signs, but see not him:
O may his love the scales displace, and bid us see him face to face!

O glorious Bridegroom of our hearts, your present smile a heav'n imparts!
O lift the veil, if veil there be, let every saint your glory see!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow the sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Benediction

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