

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Worship Presider: Elder Lewis Waha

“The ascension reminds us that Christianity is not only an historical faith, but a faith of the present and future. Jesus is, right now, in glorified humanity on the throne of the universe, wielding as the God-man “all authority in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). He is not just our suffering servant who came and died and rose triumphant, but our actively ruling, actively conquering king.”

—David Mathis

Praise to the Risen and Ascended Christ

Call to Worship

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus, My Great High Priest

Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside.
His pow'rful blood did once atone, and now it pleads before the throne.

To this dear Surety's hand will I commit my cause;
He answers and fulfills his Father's broken laws.
Behold my soul at freedom set; my Surety paid the dreadful debt.

My Advocate appears for my defense on high;
The Father bows his ears and lays his thunder by.
Not all that hell or sin can say shall turn his heart, his love, away.

Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell unknown
Put their most dreadful forms of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe, for Christ displays his conqu'ring pow'r and guardian grace.

Prayer of Invocation

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

Recall the Blessed Assurance of Christ

Call to Confession

Colossians 2:1-3

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Hebrews 6:10-12

For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Prayer of Confession

(from *Streams of Mercy*)

Heavenly Father,

We confess before you the weakness of our grip on you. In good times, we declare with assurance that in Jesus we have a sympathetic High Priest and that you will never leave us nor forsake us. Yet when trials and troubles come, we quickly feel abandoned and alone, convinced that you have forgotten us. Instead of drawing near to the throne of grace, full of confidence in your love for us, our hearts are consumed with frustration and fear. Instead of reveling in our assurance in Christ, we lash out at those closest to us in anger, or withdraw within ourselves to sulk and hide, running to the idols that promise us escape or immediate relief from our pain. We quickly forget that our advocate has ascended into heaven in triumph and intercedes for us there. Father, forgive us.

Jesus thank you that you entered this world of suffering and temptation as our merciful and compassionate High Priest. You know what it is to be tired and overwhelmed; you know what it is to feel excruciating pain and weakness; you know what it is to be abandoned and betrayed. Thank you that you were faithful in all these things for us, always trusting your Father, always revering him and obeying him from your heart. Thank you that you are completely without sin, and that you sprinkle our distrusting hearts and disobedient hearts with clean water, washing us with your perfect and spotless holiness. Thank you for the gentleness with which you receive us, and for not reproaching us for our constant weakness, doubt, and folly.

Holy Spirit, help us to cling to Christ. Show us more clearly our eternal High Priest and advocate above. Help us to ponder more deeply his love for us when we are tempted to doubt it, and to stir one another up to love and good deeds. Intercede for us in our weakness, taking our incoherent prayers and presenting them perfectly before the Father. Strengthen us in growing holiness as you continue in us the good work that you have already begun, so that on the last day we might receive what you have promised us in Christ, along with all of the saints. In Jesus name, amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Depth of Mercy

Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God his wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners, spare?
I have long withstood his grace, long provoked him to his face,
Would not hearken to his calls, grieved him by a thousand falls.

I have spilt his precious blood, trampled on the Son of God,
Filled with pangs unspeakable, I, who yet am not in hell!
I my Master have denied, I afresh have crucified,
And profaned his hallowed Name, put him to an open shame.

Whence to me this waste of love? Ask my Advocate above!
See the cause in Jesus' face, now before the throne of grace.
Pity from thine eye let fall, by a look my soul recall;
Now the stone to flesh convert, cast a look, and break my heart.

If I rightly read thy heart, if thou all compassion art,
Bow thine ear, in mercy bow, pardon and accept me now.
Jesus speaks, and pleads his blood! He disarms the wrath of God;
Now my Father's mercies move, justice lingers into love.

Kindled his relentings are, me he now delights to spare,
Cries, "How shall I give thee up?" Lets the lifted thunder drop.
Lo! I still walk on the ground: Lo! an Advocate is found:
"Hasten not to cut him down, Let this barren soul alone."

Jesus, answer from above, is not all thy nature love?
Wilt thou not the wrong forget, permit me to kiss thy feet.
There for me the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands.
Scars which ever plead for me, "Once condemned, but now set free!"

(Children may be excused to YWIT class.)

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Sermon

“The Ascension of Christ”

Reverend Robert Schmidtberger

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.

the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchased of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long! (x2)

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
Refrain

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.

Song of Preparation:

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on him was laid—here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his and he is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Jesus, My Only Hope

I come into your presence with nothing in my hands;
I only bring thanksgiving for Jesus: God and man.
I cast myself on mercy, I cast myself on love;
I trust your gracious promise to wash me with your blood.

I will not fear your judgment, for me no wrath I dread;
For it was spent on Jesus, poured out upon his head.
When Satan's accusations make my poor heart afraid,
I hear my King declaring "Father, that debt is paid!"
Jesus my only hope, my only plea,
My righteousness, my Great High Priest,
Who intercedes for me before the throne: Jesus, I trust in you alone.

Though I am poor and naked, your prodigal come home;
You place your robe upon me, your holiness alone.
Though I be dry and barren by grace this love springs forth:
Love for you and your Kingdom, joy in your glory, Lord. *Chorus*

Benediction

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