

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, July 24, 2022

Worship Presider: Elder Ken Brown

In addition, we have those who, while recognizing the Bible as a revelation from God, blunt its message by applying it to a time other than our own. This may take the form of an eschatologically overworked imagination, which pushes the significance of the Bible into the future. On this approach, the Bible is seen as a source book for end-times prophecies rather than a message that speaks to us in our everyday life.

— Iain M. Duguid

Sing Praise to the Lord

Call to Worship

Revelation 5:9-14

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,

**for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”**

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

**“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**
And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and
worshiped.

Agnus Dei

Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns!
Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns! Alleluia!

Holy, holy are you Lord God Almighty!
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb!
You are holy, holy are you Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb! Amen. (*Repeat*)

Prayer of Invocation

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

Recount the Wonders of His Mercy

Call to Confession

Psalm 78:19-22

They spoke against God, saying, “Can God spread a table in the wilderness? He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?” Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power.

Prayer of Confession

(from *Streams of Mercy*)

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for taking us into the wilderness time and time again, for there we see revealed the secret sins of our souls. In the desert, we experience your great power to save us from our unruly and sinful hearts, and there we complain bitterly when you withhold the pleasures and delicacies of life we have come to expect. Father, forgive us.

Precious Lord, you have given us your own body as a feast for our salvation and strength. When our spirits are dry and barren, you welcome us to your banqueting table and call us to drink deeply from the overflowing fountain of your goodness and grace. Jesus, thank you for the saving power of your death in our place, and for your spotless obedience which defeats the vast record of our offenses against you. Because of your death and resurrection, we can know for certain that every desert into which you call us will become a sweet banquet of your wisdom and love, for you do all things for the good of those who love you and are called according to your purpose.

Holy Spirit, help us to trust in Christ so that we can live by faith and not by sight. When you show us the wilderness of our sin, give us grace to repent quickly. Grant us the humility to look away from our failures to celebrate the righteousness that has been given to us. Help us to grow stronger as we try to obey you, and to endure our remaining weaknesses until the day when we kneel before your throne to worship you in heaven. Teach us to wait for that day when we will no longer hunger or thirst, when all of our diseases will be healed and every tear will be wiped away. Fill us with hope and joy in you as we pass through the remaining

wildernesses that you have ordained for us here on earth. Remind us that Christ has walked through the valley of death for us, and that he will surely walk through each of our valleys with us until we arrive safely in the land of promise that you have prepared for us. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Revelation 7:13-17

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd; he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

Revelation 7:1-17

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³ saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

⁵ 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, ⁶ 12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, ⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, ⁸ 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

- ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
- ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Sermon

“Sealed and Protected”

Col. Rob Ramey, USAF Ret.

Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 62. *What is the visible church?*

A. The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.

Q. 63. *What are the special privileges of the visible church?*

A. The visible church hath the privilege of being under God’s special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

Q. 64. *What is the invisible church?*

A. The invisible church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the head.

Q. 65. *What special benefits do the members of the invisible church enjoy by Christ?*

A. The members of the invisible church by Christ enjoy union and communion with him in grace and glory.

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me; let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands, can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

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:

Show Us Christ

Prepare our hearts, O God; help us to receive.
Break the hard and stony ground; help our unbelief.
Plant your Word down deep in us; cause it to bear fruit.
Open up our ears to hear. Lead us in your truth.

*Show us Christ; show us Christ.
O God, reveal your glory through the preaching of your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord.*

Your Word is living light upon our darkened eyes,
Guards us through temptations, makes the simple wise.
Your Word is food for famished ones, freedom for the slave,
Riches for the needy soul; come speak to us today. *Chorus*

Where else can we go, Lord, where else can we go?
You have the words of eternal life. (4x)

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, holy, holy, is he.
Sing a new song, to him who sits on heaven's mercy seat.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!
With all creation I sing: Praise to the King of Kings!
You are my everything, and I will adore you.

Clothed in rainbows, of living color, flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder.
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be,
To you the Only Wise King. *Refrain*

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, at the mention of your name.
Jesus, your name is power, breath, and living water, such a marvelous mystery!
Refrain

Benediction

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