

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, July 31, 2022

Worship Presider: Reverend Bob Schmidtberger

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion.”
— Revelation 14:1

The apostle John was privileged to look within the gates of heaven, and in describing what he saw, he begins by saying, “I looked, and, lo, a Lamb!” This teaches us that the chief object of contemplation in the heavenly state is “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.” Nothing else attracted the apostle’s attention so much as the person of that Divine Being, who hath redeemed us by His blood. He is the theme of the songs of all glorified spirits and holy angels. Christian, here is joy for thee; thou hast looked, and thou hast seen the Lamb. Through thy tears thine eyes have seen the Lamb of God taking away thy sins. Rejoice, then. In a little while, when thine eyes shall have been wiped from tears, thou wilt see the same Lamb exalted on His throne. It is the joy of thy heart to hold daily fellowship with Jesus; thou shalt have the same joy to a higher degree in heaven; thou shalt enjoy the constant vision of His presence; thou shalt dwell with Him for ever. “I looked, and, lo, a Lamb!” Why, that Lamb is heaven itself; for as good Rutherford says, “Heaven and Christ are the same thing;” to be with Christ is to be in heaven, and to be in heaven is to be with Christ. It is true, is it not, Christian? Does not thy soul say so?

“Not all the harps above
Can make a heavenly place,
If God His residence remove,
Or but conceal His face.”

All thou needest to make thee blessed, supremely blessed, is “to be with Christ.”

—Charles Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*, January 17 AM

Sing Praise to the Lord

Call to Worship

Jeremiah 10:6-7, Psalm 150:2

There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might.
Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all
the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you.

**Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent
greatness!**

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

*Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

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

1 Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Prayer of Confession

(adapted from *The Valley of Vision*)

O God of unsearchable greatness, before you I am nothing but vanity, iniquity, perishing. Sin has forfeited your favor, stripped me of your image, banished me from your presence, and exposed me to the curse of the law. I cannot deliver myself, and I am in despair. But a resource is found in you, for you devised an everlasting plan which angels desired to look into. And the Word which announces all the glory of this goodness is near me and invites me.

May I, a self-despairing sinner, find Jesus as the power unto salvation, his death the center of all relief and the source of all gospel-blessings. May I arrive where means of grace cease and I need no more to fast, pray, weep, watch, be tempted, attend preaching and sacrament; where nothing defiles, where there is no grief, sorrow, sin, death, separation, tears, languid body, aching joints, feeble infancy, decrepit age, pining sickness, gripping fears and consuming cares; where the more perfect the sight the more beautiful the object, the more perfect the appetite the sweeter the food, the more complete the soul the more happy its joys, where is full knowledge of you. There I will be near you, dwell with my family, stand in your presence, be an heir of your kingdom, as the spouse of Christ, as a member of his body, and exercise all my powers of body and soul in the enjoyment of you.

As praise in the mouth of your saints is becoming, so teach me to exercise this divine gift, when I pray, read, hear, see, do, in the presence of people and of my enemies, as I hope to praise you eternally hereafter, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 1:17-19

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Jesus Paid It All

I hear the Savior say, your strength indeed is small
Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me your all in all.

*Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find your power and yours alone,
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone. *Chorus*

For nothing good have I whereby thy grace to claim,
I'll wash my garments white in the blood of Calvary's Lamb. *Chorus*

And when before thy throne I stand in him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat! *Chorus*

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,

¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And 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, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I 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.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For 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

“Washed and Sheltered”

Col. Rob Ramey, USAF Ret.

Affirmation of Faith

Belgic Confession

Article 37: Of the Last Judgment

...In contrast [to the evil ones], the faithful and elect will be crowned with glory and honor. The Son of God will profess their names before God his Father and the holy and elect angels; all tears will be wiped from their eyes; and their cause—at present condemned as heretical and evil by many judges and civil officers—will be acknowledged as the cause of the Son of God. And as a gracious reward the Lord will make them possess a glory such as the human heart could never imagine. So we look forward to that great day with longing in order to enjoy fully the promises of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

There is a Higher Throne

There is a higher throne, than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace—salvation comes.

*Hear heaven's voices sing; their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies, their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honor are
To God our King, who reigns on high forevermore.*

And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne;
We'll honor him in perfect song where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King; we'll reign with him.

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:

Who is This?

Who is this, so weak and helpless, Child of lowly Hebrew maid,
Rudely in a stable sheltered, coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation, who this wondrous path has trod;
He is God from everlasting, and to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows, walking humbly life's hard way,
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior, who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing, where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces on his church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance all his foes beneath his throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying while the rude world scoffs and scorns,
Numbered with the malefactors, torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God who lives forever 'mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city, reigning everlastingly.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his Name.

The saints shall flourish in his days, dressed in the robes of joy and praise;
Peace, like a river, from his throne shall flow to nations yet unknown.

Where he displays his healing power, death and the curse are known no more:
In him the tribes of Adam boast more blessings than their father lost.

Let every creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

Benediction

The lyrics of the songs are used by permission. CCLI License #3008560

There is a Higher Throne: Keith Getty & Kristyn Lennox © 2002 Thankyou Music. Who Is This?: music by Christopher Miner © 1997 Christopher Miner Music.