

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Worship Presider: Reverend Robert Schmidtberger

What is sin? It is the glory of God not honored. The holiness of God not revered. The greatness of God not admired. The power of God not praised. The truth of God not sought. The wisdom of God not esteemed. The beauty of God not treasured. The goodness of God not savored. The faithfulness of God not trusted. The commandments of God not obeyed. The justice of God not respected. The wrath of God not feared. The grace of God not cherished. The presence of God not prized. The person of God not loved. That is sin.

—John Piper

Sing Praise to the Lord

Call to Worship

Psalm 89:1-8

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

²For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

³**You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:**

⁴**“I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.”**

⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

⁶For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

⁷a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?

⁸**O LORD God of hosts,
who is mighty as you are, O LORD,
with your faithfulness all around you?**

Prayer of Invocation

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

I Come By the Blood

You are the perfect and righteous God whose presence bears no sin

You bid me come to your Holy place, how can I enter in

When your presence bears no sin?

Through him who poured out his life for me, the atoning Lamb of God

Through him and his work alone, I boldly come.

I come by the blood, I come by the cross

Where your mercy flows from hands pierced for me

For I dare not stand on my righteousness

My every hope rests on what Christ has done, and I come by the blood

You are the high and exalted King the One the angels fear
So far above me in every way Lord, how can I draw near
To the One the angels fear?
Through him who laid down his life for me and ascended to your side
Through him, through Jesus alone I boldly come. *Refrain (twice)*

Recount His Covenant Faithfulness

Call to Confession

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

Forgive us for the countless ways in which we have not loved others. Some of us are very obviously unloving: we are inconsiderate of other's time and rude to those who are not as smart or "holy" as we are; we ignore those whom we do not like, make fun of those that we find tedious or stupid, and choose to maintain perpetually casual relationships so that we do not have to ask questions that make us uncomfortably aware of other people. Others of us are quite good at faking love: we wear ourselves thin with acts of kindness and words of counsel when primarily we are the ones desiring to be loved; we pretend to listen while really we are inwardly condemning others for not being as insightful or as mature as we are, and we make sacrifices for others with conditions that will bring about relational retribution if not met. Grief and guilt would leave us in despair over these sins.

Merciful Jesus, you became a sinless, perfect man to bear this, our great lack of love. What a wondrous love is this that you would live and die in our place? When you were on earth, you loved others with a specific and meaningful love. You really saw people, not just for what they could give you, but you saw their hearts, their needs, their sorrows, and their sin. You loved us with the greatest love of all: the love that led you to lay down your life to save us. Your loving tongue was silenced, your loving hands were pierced, your loving eyes were closed in death, and your loving heart stopped beating as you were forsaken by your Father to cancel our debt of sin.

Faithful Spirit, we long for Christ's kingdom to come, when we will be fully and finally free from our struggle with self-love and blindness to others. Help us, we pray, to live as citizens of that kingdom now, promoting peace and loving others with the self-sacrificing love that Jesus so perfectly modeled and poured out on us. Help us to want to see others, and help us to listen with our hearts. Continue to change us into those who love without condition, giving grace to others in light of the unimaginable grace that we have been so freely given, which is our only source of change, hope, and life. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Silent Prayers of Confession

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)

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Sermon

“Love is Patient”

Rev. T. David Gordon

O 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!

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:

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.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on his hands.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise,

Arise, my soul, arise.

Shake off your guilty fears and rise!

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
His all redeeming love, his precious blood, to plead;
His blood atoned for every race, his blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace. *Chorus*

Five bleeding wounds he bears; received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry, “Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die!” *Chorus*

The Father hears him pray, his dear anointed One;
He cannot turn away the presence of his Son;
The Spirit answers to the blood, the Spirit answers to the blood
And tells me I am born of God. *Chorus*

Benediction

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