Lord's Day Worship Sunday, November 19th, 2023

Sing Praise to the Lord

*Call to Worship

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

*Psalm 100

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the LORD with cheerful voice; Him serve with mirth, 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 flock, 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.

Because the LORD our God is good; His mercy is forever 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.

Recount the Wonders of His Mercy

Call to Confession 1 John 3:23-24

This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Prayer of Confession

(from Streams of Mercy)

Merciful and gracious God,

We come before you as people who desperately need to see you with clear vision. We need to behold your majesty in order to feel our smallness; we need to gaze upon your holiness in order to feel our sinfulness; we need to see your humble self-offering at the cross in order to know how truly loved we are. Father, as we contemplate your beauty, help us to see how unlike you we really are. We transgress your wise laws, love iniquity instead of righteousness and sin freely against your holy character. Instead of believing in the name of Jesus Christ and loving one another, we trust in ourselves and our own efforts, while despising and mocking others for their weakness. Instead of forgiving others, we cast ourselves in the role of judge, eagerly repaying evil to those who have done evil to us. You, however, have shown steadfast love to us while we still hated you; you spoke words of forgiveness to us while we used your name as a curse; you have richly blessed us with the gift of your Spirit, even while we continue to look anywhere and everywhere else for our blessings.

Lord Jesus, you showed mercy and grace in the face of undeserved evil. You were mocked and beaten for us: when sinful men reviled you, you were silent like a sheep before its slaughterer; when people cursed you, instead of bringing deserved judgment upon them, you spoke words of forgiveness and blessing in return. Thank you for living the life of unmatched goodness towards God and your neighbor that we should have lived, and for taking our place under the curse that our sin merits.

Holy Spirit, help us to live lives that abide in Christ and are thus truly a blessing to those around us. Help us to love those who are unkind and unfair to us, to speak kind words to those who mock us, and to be gentle with those who are harsh. Thank you that your declaration of blessing upon us is sure and immovable, rooted and grounded in your unchanging and eternal character. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Romans 10:9-10, 13

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

*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) Chorus

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Psalm 136

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁴ to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁵ to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁶ to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever:

⁷ to him who made the great lights,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁸ the sun to rule over the day,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁹ the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁰ to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹¹ and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹² with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹³ to him who divided the Red Sea in two. for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁴ and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever;

15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁶ to him who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁷ to him who struck down great kings, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁸ and killed mighty kings,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁹ Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his steadfast love endures forever:

²⁰ and Og, king of Bashan,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

²¹ and gave their land as a heritage,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

²² a heritage to Israel his servant,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

²³ It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁴ and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁵ he who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven. for his steadfast love endures forever.

Rev. Robert Schmidtberger

Confession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q 1. Dear Christians, what is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

(We will receive our gifts and offerings for the Lord's work during the singing of the next song.)

*We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens His will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning: the Lord was at our side- the glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant, and pray that Thou still our defender wilt be. Let Thy congregation escape tribulation; Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

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. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.

There is a Redeemer

There is a redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son, Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy one. Thank you oh my Father, for giving us your Son, And leaving your Spirit, 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus my redeemer, Name above all names, Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, oh, for sinners slain. *Chorus*

When I stand in glory, I will see his face, And there I'll serve my king forever, in that holy place. *Chorus*

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. *Chorus*

*Benediction

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, ye heav'nly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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