

# **Lord's Day Worship**

**Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## ***Sing Praise to the Lord***

### **\*Call to Worship**

**Psalm 95:1-7**

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.  
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

### **\*All Creatures of Our God and King**

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice, and with us sing: Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
*O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice, *Refrain*

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest man both warmth and light, *Refrain*

And all ye men of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care, *Refrain*

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship him in humbleness, O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One,  
*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**

**Jeremiah 3:12, 14-15**

“Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever... Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. “And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**(from *Streams of Mercy*)**

Heavenly Father, You are a kind and loving Shepherd. When we wander away from you, you bring us back. When we fall into sin, you restore us. When we are wounded, you heal us; and when we faint, you revive us. You protect us and lead us into green pastures, working all things for our good. You have given us your precious Son, and you never tire of forgiving us, loving us, and rescuing us. Father, thank you for your faithfulness and love for us in Christ.

Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to be the perfect Shepherd of your people. Your kind and patient care for foolish sheep melts our hearts with gratitude, and your compassion toward our many ongoing struggles with sin gives us hope. Thank you for laying down your life for us as our perfect sacrifice. You bore the heavy load of all our sin, and you dress us up in the shining robes of your perfect righteousness. Now you stand in heaven, our great Shepherd King, interceding for us and loving us. We could never deserve such faithful love and care, and we thank you.

Holy Spirit, you know our hearts. We are prone to wander away daily, and we need your help to live as shepherds and sheep in your church. Help our shepherds to lead wisely and to live lives of confession and repentance before us. Give them the courage to be humble, discerning, and loving. Give them strength to keep pursuing all kinds of weak and foolish sheep. Help those of us who are sheep to grow in grace and to respect our leaders well. Let us neither exalt them and treat them like heroes nor demean and discount them. May we honor them, giving thanks for your rich gift of gentle shepherds who feed us well from your Word every week. Make us a delight to them, and remind us to pray for them often. Make us good followers as we journey together to our heavenly home, where we will fall before our great Shepherd King and join the heavenly anthem of praise and adoration for the Lamb who was slain for us. In his great name we pray, amen.

## **Silent Prayers of Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Revelation 7:9-10, 14, 17**

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, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

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... 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."

### **\*Psalm 23**

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie,  
In pastures green; he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill:  
For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;  
My head thou dost with oil anoint and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house for evermore my dwelling-place shall be.

## **Prayer for the Church and Congregation**

## ***Give Attention to His Powerful Word***

### **Scripture Reading**

**Acts 20:17-38**

<sup>17</sup> Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup> And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup> And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, <sup>27</sup> for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. <sup>32</sup> And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

<sup>36</sup> And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, <sup>38</sup> being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

### **Sermon**

**Christ-Centered Shepherds and Sheep**  
Mr. Rob Ramey (Student of Theology)

## Sermon Outline

Proposition: Even in this final, farewell address to his beloved friends, Paul's main concern is the proclamation of Christ. Everything he teaches them reflects Christ.

I. Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus Christ (vv. 18-21)

II. Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus Christ (vv. 22-27)

III. Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus Christ (vv. 28-38)

### **\*Confession of Faith**

### **Westminster Confession of Faith**

*1.6.* The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory and man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly stated in Scripture or by good and necessary inference may be deduced from Scripture, unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit or by traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge that the inward illumination of the Spirit of God is necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word. We also acknowledge that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God and the government of the church—circumstances common to human activities and societies—which are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.

*1.10.* The supreme judge by whom all controversies of religion are to be settled and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and claims to private revelations are to be examined, can be only the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture. With his decision we are to be satisfied.

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

### **\*Be Thou My Vision**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;  
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r:  
Raise thou me heaven-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## ***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.*

## **Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;  
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
Keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Let us early turn to thee.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Let us early turn to thee.

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

## **The Church's One Foundation**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is his new creation by water and the Word:  
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food.  
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,  
To guide, sustain and cherish is with her to the end;  
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,  
Against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.



'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace for evermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

### **\*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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