

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, April 2nd, 2023

Sing Praise to the Lord

***Call to Worship**

Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

***Jesus the Shepherd of My Soul (Psalm 23)**

Jesus the shepherd of my soul, all of my needs supplies
By living waters gives me rest, keeping me by His side
Bringing my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways
Leading me for His mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace

Jesus the shepherd of my soul when in the valley deep
Death like a shadow hides my way, still You are leading me
I will not fear the darkest hour, faithful You will remain
Comforting with Your rod and staff, driving my fears away

Jesus the shepherd of my soul, keeping me from all harm
Ever until He leads me home, safely into His arms
When I behold Him face to face, then I will look and see
Goodness and mercy from His hand surely have followed me

***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

John 10:11, 14

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

Prayer of Confession

(from *Streams of Mercy*)

Almighty God,

Praise is due to you from all your creatures, for your works display your attributes and fulfill all your designs. You are the King of Kings, and at your will, empires rise and fall; you sit above the circle of the earth and govern all things according to your will and for your glory. Yet you are also a kind and loving Shepherd, carrying us in your heart and gently leading us through green pastures and painful valleys. You are powerful and full of compassion for your weak sheep, and we thank you for stooping to care for us with tenderness.

We are a small flock of your people, and as you call us to live together in peace, we know that we will fall short of your commands. Those of us who are called to lead will be tempted to seek power and use it for our own benefits, and to rule with a heavy hand. Lord, give compassion, gentleness, humility, and sacrificial love to those who you call to leadership in your church. Thank you for the perfect leadership of Jesus Christ, which covers and atones for each pastor, elder, and deacon. Give them courage to work hard and grace to fail, to learn, and to grow. Make them quick to repent when they sin, so they can lead us to the cross.

Those of us who are called to follow will be tempted to rebel and wander. We will be stubborn at times, and weak, and difficult to love. Thank you for the perfect submission of Jesus to his Father's will, which covers and protects us from ourselves. Make us humble, teachable, patient, and supportive toward those who are called to watch over our souls. Help us to confess our sin and repent quickly of it, so that we will be a delight to our leaders.

Holy Spirit, do not let pride swell up in our hearts. Humble us when we sin, and lead us to Christ. There, may we find the comfort of the gospel. We have a great advocate to calm our fears and perfect Lamb who has died in our place. We have a reconciled Father, a powerful Shepherd, a compassionate friend, and a Savior who is willing and able to save us to the uttermost. In the name of Chief Shepherd, we ask all these things, amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2:21-25

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

***I'll Rest in Christ**

No more, my God, I boast no more of all the deeds that I have done;

I leave the hopes I held before to trust the merits of your Son.

So I'll come to you and rest from my so-called righteousness.

I will cease my striving and put my hope in Jesus, trusting in his work for me:

I'll rest in Christ.

By sov'reign love I bear his name, what was my gain I count my loss.

My former pride I call my shame and nail my glory to his cross. *Chorus*

The finest works of my own hands dare not appear before your throne:
But faith can meet your law's demands for Jesus' deeds are now my own. *Chorus*
(twice)

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Acts 6:1-6

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

Sermon

Welcome to Christ Presbyterian Church ARP

Rev. Seob Kim

Sermon Outline

I. The Primacy of Gospel-_____ in the life of the Early Church.

II. The Importance of Gospel-_____ in the life of the Early Church.

***Confession of Faith**

Belgic Confession

Article 29 Q. Christians what do we believe about the True Marks of the True Church?

A. We believe that we ought to discern diligently and very carefully, by the Word of God, what is the true church— for all sects in the world today claim for themselves the name of “the church.”

We are not speaking here of the company of hypocrites who are mixed among the good in the church and who nonetheless are not part of it, even though they are physically there. But we are speaking of distinguishing the body and fellowship of the true church from all sects that call themselves “the church.”

The true church can be recognized if it has the following marks: The church engages in the pure preaching of the gospel; it makes use of the pure administration of the sacraments as Christ instituted them; it practices church discipline for correcting faults.

In short, it governs itself according to the pure Word of God, rejecting all things contrary to it and holding Jesus Christ as the only Head. By these marks one can be assured of recognizing the true church— and no one ought to be separated from it.

As for those who can belong to the church, we can recognize them by the distinguishing marks of Christians: namely by faith, and by their fleeing from sin and pursuing righteousness, once they have received the one and only Savior, Jesus Christ. They love the true God and their neighbors, without turning to the right or left, and they crucify the flesh and its works.

Though great weakness remains in them, they fight against it by the Spirit all the days of their lives, appealing constantly to the blood, suffering, death, and obedience of the Lord Jesus, in whom they have forgiveness of their sins, through faith in him.

As for the false church, it assigns more authority to itself and its ordinances than to the Word of God; it does not want to subject itself to the yoke of Christ; it does not administer the sacraments as Christ commanded in his Word; it rather adds to them or subtracts from them as it pleases; it bases itself on humans, more than on Jesus Christ; it persecutes those who live holy lives according to the Word of God and who rebuke it for its faults, greed, and idolatry.

These two churches are easy to recognize and thus to distinguish from each other.

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

***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.

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.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one lay down, your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad;
I found in him my resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank from that life-giving stream
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy days be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk 'til pilgrim days are done.

Come Thou Fount

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Broken I shall be in spirit, till released from flesh and sin,
Yet from what I do inherit, here thy praises I'll begin;
Clothed in flesh, till death shall loose me, I cannot proclaim it well,
How his kindness still pursues me human tongue can never tell.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; here by thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood;

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning, I shall see thy lovely face;
Clothed then in blood wash'd linen how I'll sing thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, take my ransomed soul away;
Send thine angels now to carry me to realms of endless day.

***Benediction**

***Doxology**

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

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