

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, July 16th, 2023

Sing Praise to the Lord

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 28:6-9

Blessed be the LORD!

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

The LORD is my strength and my shield;

in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;

my heart exults,

and with my song I give thanks to him.

The LORD is the strength of his people;

he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!

Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

***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.

***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

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

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

Ezekiel 34:11-12, John 10:11

“For thus says the Lord GOD; Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.”

[Jesus said,] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

***Break Thou the Bread of Life**

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Throughout the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word!

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
As thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me,
Thy holy Word the truth that saveth me;
Give me to eat and live with thee above;
Teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.

O send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
That he may touch my eyes, and make me see:
Show me the truth concealed within thy Word,
And in thy Book revealed I see the Lord.

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

Mark 6:30-44

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.

³¹ And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

³² And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he

began to teach them many things. ³⁵ And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶ Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Sermon

Like Sheep Without a Shepherd Rob Ramey

Sermon Outline

I. A Shepherd's _____ for His Disciples' _____.

II. A Shepherd's _____ for a _____ Flock.

III. A Shepherd's _____ During a _____ Moment.

IV. A Shepherd's _____, Thanksgiving, and _____.

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism

Q 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Q 2. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

Q 19. How do you come to know this?

A. The holy gospel tells me. God began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise; later God proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs and prophets and foreshadowed it by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; and finally God fulfilled it through his own beloved Son.

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

***Christ Our Hope In Life and Death**

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence? That our souls to him belong.

Who holds our days within his hand? What comes, apart from his command?

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal!

O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:

Christ our hope in life and death

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.

Where is his grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ? *Chorus*
Unto the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with him
There we will rise to meet the Lord; then sin and death will be destroyed.
And we will feast in endless joy, when Christ is ours forevermore
Chorus (2x)

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.

Ah Holy Jesus

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee! I crucified thee.

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.

For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
Think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

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

When I behold Him face to face, then I will look and see
Goodness and mercy from His hand surely have followed me

***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

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