

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, August 13th, 2023

Sing Praise to the Lord

***Call to Worship**

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

***We Come, O Christ to You**

We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,
By whom all things consist, in whom all life began:
In you alone we live and move, and have our being in your love.

You are the Way to God, your blood our ransom paid;
In you we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.
Before the throne absolved we stand, your love has met your law's demand.

You are the living Truth! All wisdom dwells in you,
The Source of every skill, the one eternal True!
O great I AM! In you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true Life, to know you is to live
The more abundant life that earth can never give:
O risen Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life renew!

We worship you, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King,
To you our hearts with praise adoringly we bring:
So fill our hearts, that all may view your life in us, and turn to you.

***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

Luke 9:18-20

Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.” Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

Prayer of Confession

(from *Streams of Mercy*)

Incomparable Savior,

We thank you, with all of our hearts, for your wondrous love in bearing all of our guilt on the cross. May your cross sweeten every bitterness in our lives, encourage us with hope in every trial, and connect us to you as the true vine- the only source of all our strength and power. Lord, we have died with you, are risen with you, and are seated with you already in heavenly places. Yet we find that sin continues to have great power over us, because we quickly forget who you are, and who we are in you. We are often self-absorbed –we struggle daily to deny ourselves and to choose obedience and love for others over pleasing ourselves. We wrestle with many sinful desires and with over-desires for many good things. When we do manage to serve others, we often take pride and pleasure in our own good conduct, and we use our serving to feel good about ourselves. Father, forgive us for the self-gratifying and self-exalting lives that we lead from moment to moment.

Jesus, thank you for giving up the praise and glory of heaven in order to please your Father and rescue us from ourselves. You denied yourself the adoration and worship that you richly deserved, in order to enter a world of people who would misunderstand, reject, and hate you. You lived a life of self-denial and sacrificial love for others, always obeying your Father, always putting the needs of others before your own. We thank you for your radiant robe of righteousness, which replaces the filthy and tattered rags of our attempts to be good. Although you are the anointed one of God, you paid the full price that we owed for sin at the cross, so that we could be freed from bondage to sin and death and from our relentless self-worship. Thank you.

Holy Spirit, we have been given a cross to carry before we wear the crown. We confess that self-love causes us to hate that cross and that human reason leads us to run from it. Without your help we cannot bear it. Spirit, remind us often that Jesus has carried that cross already for us, and that he will surely carry it with us from day to day. Increase our joy in the cross of Christ, and our wonder and admiration for all that was accomplished for us there, until our hearts melt and our self-worship gives way to profound delight in Jesus as our priceless treasure. As true worship fills the panorama of our souls, may we grow into people who swiftly

turn away from our own desires in order to love others as we have been so greatly loved. We pray in the beautiful name of Jesus, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

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.

***Wonderful, Merciful Savior**

Wonderful merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men,
Oh you rescue the souls of men.

You are the One that we praise, you are the One we adore.

You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,

Oh our hearts always hunger for.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace,
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way,
Oh we hopelessly lost the way. *Chorus*

Almighty infinite Father, faithfully loving your own,
Here in our weakness you find us, falling before your throne,
Oh we're falling before your throne. *Chorus*

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Acts 9:20-25

And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

²³ When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him,²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him,²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

Sermon **When the Persecutor Becomes the Persecuted (1)**
Rev. Seob Kim

Sermon Outline

I. Saul's _____ of the Gospel in Damascus

II. Saul's _____ for the Gospel in Damascus

Confession of Faith **Heidelberg Catechism**

Q 1. Christian, 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.

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

***Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me**

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer!
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven.
The future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released; I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For he has said that he will bring me home,
And day by day, I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

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.

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

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 host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

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