

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, January 14th, 2024

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**

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with joy, 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 folk, 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.

For why? the Lord our God is good; his mercy is for ever 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

Exodus 33:18-23

Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on

the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

Prayer of Confession

(from *Streams of Mercy*)

Mighty God and loving heavenly Father,

You are our glorious Creator who made all things from nothing. In the beginning, you fashioned the sun, moon, and stars, and you divided light from darkness. You gave mankind the glory of your image, crowning us with honor and blessing. You took great delight in your creation, gracing your image bearers with the light of your presence as you walked with Adam in the garden each day. But Adam fell, exchanging the glorious light of your love for the darkness of sin and rebellion. We confess that we were in Adam as he sinned, and we are just like Adam as we continue to make that same choice each day. Though we know you, we are still lovers of darkness who drift toward sin whenever you leave us to ourselves. Even your majestic glory can barely compete with the dazzling trinkets of this world that captivate us. Father, forgive us.

Lord, we thank you that our sin and darkness can never overwhelm the shining brightness of your glory and love. Though we are drawn to disobedience in many ways, considering many things more beautiful than you, you sent your Son to shine the radiant light of your love on vile sinners like us. We thank you for Jesus. Though he is the Light of the World, full of glory and grace, he volunteered to enter our darkness and live in our flesh and blood to destroy the power of sin over us. He lived his life in shining obedience so that he could give his goodness to us as a free gift. He chose to be slain by the darkness in order to pay our debt, and we are undone by his sacrifice.

Holy Spirit, draw our hearts from darkness to light. Show us the glory of our Redeemer; cause us to revel in his love and to bask in the joy of his great pleasure in us. Enable us to hate the darkness of our sin and to flee to the brightness of his love, which welcomes us as treasured brothers and sisters who are reclothed in the brightness of his obedience. In our weakness we cannot come to you, but we ask that you would come to us over and over again. Refresh us with truth and draw us once again from the darkness we prefer to the light we so desperately need. As you did Moses, give us a strong desire to see your glory in our world and in our lives every day. Dazzle us with your beauty and goodness until our idols are revealed in all their foolishness. Help us to live not for our own glory, but for the glory of the one who gave himself to redeem us. Prepare us for the day when we will fall at Jesus’ feet and will live in the bright light of his glory in our heavenly home forever. In the beautiful name of our Savior we pray, amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***I Come By the Blood**

You are the perfect and righteous God whose presence bears no sin
You bid me come to your Holy place, how can I enter in
When your presence bears no sin?
Through him who poured out his life for me, the atoning Lamb of God
Through him and his work alone, I boldly come.

I come by the blood, I come by the cross
Where your mercy flows from hands pierced for me
For I dare not stand on my righteousness
My every hope rests on what Christ has done, and I come by the blood

You are the high and exalted King the One the angels fear
So far above me in every way Lord, how can I draw near
To the One the angels fear?
Through him who laid down his life for me and ascended to your side
Through him, through Jesus alone I boldly come. *Refrain (twice)*

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

***Scripture Reading**

Psalm 139:1-24

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!
O men of blood, depart from me!
They speak against you with malicious intent;
your enemies take your name in vain.
Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
I hate them with complete hatred;
I count them my enemies.
Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

Sermon

The Right Response to Good Theology

Rob Ramey

Sermon Outline

Proposition: Confessing God's glory is an act of worship, producing zeal for Him, trust in Him, and gratitude.

I. God _____, is present with, and _____ things (1-18)

II. Thus God is worthy of our _____, _____, and _____ (19-24)

***Confession of Faith**

Heidelberg Catechism

Q 21. Dear Christians, what is true Faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

Q 32. Dear Christians, why are you called Christian?

A. Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.

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

***Psalm 139**

LORD, you have searched me and you know
where'er I rest, where'er I go;
you search my thoughts and know my plans,
and all my ways are in your hands.

My words from you I cannot hide,
you hem me in on ev'ry side;
O wond'rous knowledge, awesome might,
unfathomed depth, unmeasured height!...

If deepest darkness cover me,
to you the darkness light shall be;
if light about me be as night
to you both night and day are bright.

Within the womb you knitted me
so fearfully and wondrously;
I give my maker thankful praise,
whose wondrous works my soul amaze...

O search me, God, my heart discern,
and try me, God, my thoughts to learn;
and lead me, if in sin I stray,
to choose the everlasting way.

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.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on him was laid—here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his and he is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

I Sing The Almighty Power of God

I sing th'almighty pow'r of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flow'r below
but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
and ev'rywhere that man can be,
you, God, are present there.

***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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