

The Worship of God

December 28, 2008

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus! If you are a guest with us, please be sure to sign our Registry when it is passed during the service. Children are welcome in our worship. We have a nursery available for children 3 and under. Children not yet in kindergarten will be dismissed prior to the sermon. Thank you for joining us today and may the Lord richly bless you.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Being moved by music is secondary to worshipping God. The Spirit is always to be free to direct our worship, whether the music moves us or not. It is only when being moved by music is coupled to a PRECEDING passion for God that we are truly moved. Behind all of this is the Lord's continuous invitation to come and to continue worship. God wills that all of us worship him. Behind all of these secondary movings (music, architecture, atmosphere, and environment) is the primary mover, whose most quiet call and gentlest reminder speak louder than our most elaborate art pieces. – Harold Best

Call to Worship¹

Psalm 66:1–4, 8

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.” Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard.

Hymn of Praise²

To God Be the Glory

Crosby

To God be the glory, great things He has done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate that we may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O Come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be,
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed³

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The word “catholic” means universal

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

It came upon a midnight clear that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
Peace on the earth good will to men from heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled.
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing.
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bended low.
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow.
Look now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo the days are hast'ning on, by prophets bards fore told.
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendor fling.
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Call to Confession of Sin

Psalm 32:1, 5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Corporate Confession of Sin

Based on Galatians 5:16–23

Leader: Jesus said that a tree would be known by its fruit:

People: But we confess that we have not always walked by the Spirit, preventing its fruit from bearing in our lives.

Leader: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, and peace:

People: But we have not shown love for God or man; we have not relied upon the joy of the Lord for our strength; we have not rested in the peace of our reconciliation with God.

Leader: The fruit of the Spirit is patience, kindness, and goodness:

People: But we have not even tolerated one another in love; we have not shown others the grace that has been shown to us through Christ; we have pursued others with malice in our heart.

Leader: The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control:

People: But we have broken our promises; we have boasted in our triumphs; we have indulged sinful passions. Gracious Savior, please forgive our obedience to the desires of the flesh; cultivate in us a craving to live by the Spirit, to produce fruit that is good, to yield forth abundantly from the plentiful treasure of the Spirit.

Assurance of Pardon in Christ

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Agnus Dei

Smith

Alleluia, Alleluia
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, Alleluia

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, Holy, Holy, You are Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb,
You are Holy, Holy, You are Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen.

I Am the Lord Your God

Unknown

When you pass through the waters I will be with you,
And the waves will not overcome you, do not fear.
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name you are mine.

*For I am the Lord Your God, (I am Lord your God)
I am the Lord your God, (I... Am)
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I am the Lord, (Do not fear.)
I am the Lord, (Do not fear.)
I am the Lord, (Do not fear.)
I am the Lord. (Do not fear.)*

When you pass through the fire you'll not be burned
And the flames will not consume you, do not fear.
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name you are mine.

¹ We believe that God always initiates with sinners, so we begin worship with his invitation and command to us to gather in his name.

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³ The Nicene Creed was written in the 4th century A.D. Its central doctrines are those of the Person of Jesus Christ and the reality of the Holy Spirit. It is the only creed accepted by all three branches of Christendom (Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox).

I Give You My Heart

Morgan

This is my desire, to honor You;
Lord, with all my heart, I worship You;
All I have within me, I give You praise;
All that I adore is in You.

*Lord, I give You my heart, I give You my soul,
I live for You alone;
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,
Lord have Your way in me.*

Corporate Prayer

Kent Quinn

Offering

Sermon⁴

Matthew3:13-17

Rev. Rob Bailey

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

A Word About Communion – The bread and wine you see on the Communion table may not look like much to the casual observer. In fact, it is merely bread and wine. What makes this meal special is that the Lord Jesus Christ is spiritually present in a unique way. This sacrament is not something to be taken lightly but neither is it a time to be somber; rather, we should be filled with thankfulness and joy. Our Savior, out of His great mercy, bids His people to come to this meal. If you are a member of a church who embraces the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are at peace with your fellow Christians, we welcome you to this table. Come and consider with us our Lord's body and shed blood symbolized in the bread and wine. Rejoice with us in our union with Him and with each other as His Covenant people. For those not taking Communion today, we encourage you to carefully think on the prayers found in the section entitled: "Prayers for Those Not Communing", and we look forward to the day when you may join us in this meal.

Behold, Bless the Lord

Unknown

Behold, bless the Lord, ye servants of the Lord,
Who stand by night in the house of the Lord.

(Chorus)

Lift up *(lift up)* your hands *(your hands)*
In the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.

May the Lord bless you out of Zion,
He who made heaven and earth.

Benediction⁵

Prayers of Meditation for Those Not Communing

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Heavenly Father, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through Your Son Jesus, I can be more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You that He lived the life I should have lived, and paid the debt and punishment I owed. Receive me now for His sake. I turn from my sins and receive Him as Savior. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

⁴ 4, 5, & 6-year-old children may be dismissed before the sermon to Godly Play in room 173.

⁵ Just as God has the first word in worship, he also has the last word. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing. We look up and extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.