

The Worship of God

November 15, 2009

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 4 to 6 years of age may be dismissed to Godly Play prior to the sermon. Thank you for joining us today and may the Lord richly bless you.

Song of Assembly¹

Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty

Father in heaven how we love You,
We lift Your name in all the earth.

May Your kingdom be established in our praises,
As Your people declare Your mighty works.

*Blessed be the Lord God Almighty,
Who was, and is, and is to come.
Blessed be the Lord God Almighty,
Who reigns forevermore.*

Fitts

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

“I will open my mouth in a parable...”

Psalm 78:2

“I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.”
Psalm 49:4

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.”
Proverbs 1:5,6

“Jesus now, more than ever before, begins to speak in parables in order to further reveal the truth to those who accepted the mysterious, but to conceal it from those who rejected the obvious.”
William Hendriksen

Call to Worship²

Psalm 105:1-6

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

Hymn of Praise

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow’r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Luther

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure; for lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

Confession of Faith

Hebrews 7:25-8:2

Leader: Christians, What do you believe?

People: (Christ) is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a High Priest meets our need— One who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

The point of what we are saying is this: *We do* have such a High Priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

In Christ Alone

Townend

In Christ Alone my hope is found,
He is my strength, my light, 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,
My every sin on Him was laid -
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world in 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!

Call to Confession of Sin

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

Acts 10:43

“To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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² We believe that God always initiates with sinners, so we begin worship with his invitation and command to us to gather in His name.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing Wesley

O for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

Jesus! The Name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, he sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro' all the earth abroad, the honors of Thy name.

Lord For Your Glory Hampton

Lord for your glory we sing Your praises.
We magnify Your holy name.
All for Your glory, Lord we bring blessing.
We seek to honor You all of our days.

*We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You.
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we give our lives to You
We offer all we are for the glory of You.*

Almighty Father, we are Your children.
You have been faithful to Your own.
Lord, for Your glory we have been chosen.
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!

*We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You.
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we give our lives to You.
We offer all we are, we offer all we have,
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.
For the glory of You!*

Here I Am to Worship Hughes

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

*Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, oh so highly exalted.
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth You created.
All for love's sake became poor.

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.

Offering

Sermon³ Pastor Tommy Lee

Series: "Come to me... and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)

XXXVIII. The Parable That Interprets Us

Matthew 13:1-9 (& 13:18-23)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

A Word About Communion - The bread and juice you see on the Communion table may not look like much to the casual observer. In fact, it is merely bread and juice. 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 juice. Rejoice with us in our union with Him and with each other as His Covenant people.

Be Thou My Vision Hull

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction⁴ Isaiah 46:3,4

And now to God's elect, whom he has upheld since they were conceived and carried since they were born; hear his good promise: I am he; I will sustain you, I will carry you, I will rescue you... even to your old age.

Behold, Bless the Lord Unknown

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

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

³ 4, 5, & 6 year-old children may be dismissed before the sermon to Godly Play in room 173.

⁴ Just as God called us into His presence at the beginning, so now He commands His blessing upon us as we depart. We look up and extend our hands in a posture of thanksgiving as we receive this great gift. Our final response to God's assurance of His peace and presence upon those who are in Christ is a chorus of joyful song.