

The Worship of God

November 29, 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

Great God Who Saves

Story

Oh, the promises of God, the rock on which I stand,
The truths to which I cling.
His love that knows no bounds; He showers us with grace,
Withholding no good thing.

When I stumble and my faith is small,
I will call Your name, great God who saves.

And I would have despaired if I had not believed
That You would come to me, great God who saves.
And in my darkest hour, Your mercy and Your power
Are reaching out to me, great God who saves.

Oh, the mystery of God, who holds all space and time,
Yet knows my every need.
The vastness of Your power, the strength You give the weak;
I soar on eagle's wings.

And in my pain and in my need,
You heard me calling out Your name.
When I was blind and could not see,
You stepped in and saved a wretch like me,
And saved a wretch like me.
Great God who saves.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Without the gospel everything is useless and vain; without the gospel we are not Christians; without the gospel all riches is poverty, all wisdom folly before God; strength is weakness, and all the justice of man is under the condemnation of God. But by the knowledge of the gospel we are made children of God, brothers of Jesus Christ, fellow townsmen with the saints, citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, heirs of God with Jesus Christ, by whom the poor are made rich, the weak strong, the fools wise, the sinner justified, the desolate comforted, the doubting sure, and slaves free. It is the power of God for the salvation of all those who believe. - John Calvin

Call to Worship²

Psalm 107:1-3,8-9

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

Hymn of Praise

Now Thank We All Our God

Rinkart

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in Whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way,
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest Heaven.
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 27&28³

Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which he upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from his fatherly hand.

Q. How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

A. We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from his love. All creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

Father, Long Before Creation

Barnes

Father, long before creation, Thou had'st chosen us in love,
And that love so deep, so moving, draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us, firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion, yet our God is e'er the same;
His compassion and His covenant, through all ages will remain.
God's own children, God's own children, must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story, is my boasting all the day;
Mercy free and never failing, moves my will, directs my way.
God so loved us, God so loved us, that His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee, we will ever praise Thy love,
And our songs will sound unceasing, 'til we reach our home above,
Giving glory, giving glory, to our God and to the Lamb
Giving glory, giving glory, to our God and to the Lamb.

Call to Confession of Sin

Deuteronomy 8:11-14,17-18

Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Corporate Confession of Sin

O Lord, You have been careful to reveal Your will to us in Your Word. Though its light shines brightly around us, we are slow to learn it and are prone to forget it. We frequently ignore what You have taught us through the Spirit. Our Father, help and forgive us; for we have wasted our strength and have avoided opportunities to serve You. We have served sin and self and sought out the approval of men. We have said in our hearts, "My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth." Lord Christ, we agonize over our graceless hearts, prayerless days, and lack of love for others. Work in us, and make it our greatest joy to know You, and to meditate on Your Word. May we never seek in Your creation, what can only be found in You. Grant us increase and progress in grace, so that we may serve You with an undivided heart...(*silent confession*)...Amen.

Assurance of Pardon in Christ

1 Peter 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Almighty King

Strick

We will drink from Your fountain
We will sing to our Lord
We rejoice in Your goodness Almighty King

We will trust in You always
We will live in Your Light
We rejoice in Your goodness Almighty King

Sing Praise, sing praise
To the Almighty King, to the Almighty King (x2)

I will drink from Your fountain
I will sing to my Lord
I'll rejoice in Your goodness Almighty King

I will trust in You always
I will live in Your Light
I'll rejoice in Your goodness Almighty King

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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.

³ The Heidelberg Catechism was composed by Zacharius Ursinus and Caspar Olevianus in Germany in 1563. It soon became the most ecumenical of the Reformed catechisms and confessions and is the most widely used and most warmly praised catechism of the Reformation period.

Lift Up Thy Bleeding Hand

Alexander

When wounded sore, the stricken heart lies bleeding and unbound,
One only hand, a pierced hand, can salve the sinner's wound.
When sorrow swells the laden breast, and tears of anguish flow,
One only heart, a broken heart, can feel the sinner's woe.

*Lift up Thy bleeding hand, O Lord,
Unseal that cleansing tide;
We have no shelter from our sin
But in thy wounded side.*

When penitential grief has wept o'er some foul dark spot,
One only stream, a stream of blood, can wash away the blot.
'Tis Jesus' blood that washes white, his hand that brings relief,
His heart that's touched with all our joys, and feels for all our grief.

Beautiful Savior

Townend

All my days I will sing the song of gladness,
Give my praise to the fountain of delights.
For in my helplessness, you heard my cry,
And waves of mercy poured down on my life.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer.
I will sing of the Lamb that never fails.
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleared.
Of death defeated and life without end.

*Beautiful Savior, wonderful counselor,
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history
You're the way, the truth, the life.
Star of the morning, glorious in holiness,
You're the risen one, heaven's champion
And you reign, you reign over all.*

I long to be where the praise is never ending.
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades.
With countless worshippers, will sing one song,
And cries of worthy will honor the Lamb.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Offering

Sermon⁴

Pastor Steve Coward

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

XXXIX. A Life Without Weeds
Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

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.

Like a River Glorious

Like a river glorious, is God's perfect peace,
Over all victorious in its bright increase,
Perfect yet it floweth fuller every day
Perfect yet it groweth deeper all the way.

(Chorus)

Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest;
Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

Ev'ry joy or trial falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial by the Son of Love.
We may trust Him fully all for us to do;
They who trust Him wholly, find Him wholly true.

Benediction⁵

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.*

⁵ 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.

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