

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 6, 2019

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 19 (p. 790)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Holy, Holy, Holy!” Hymn 100

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we approach your throne of grace repenting of the sins we have committed. You know our hearts better than we do. Nothing is hidden from your sight.

All: We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and remember our sins no more. Assure us of your steadfast covenant love that was sealed by the precious blood of our Savior and guaranteed by the sealing of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

All: We pray this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

Congregational Response

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” Hymn 646

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 73. *Which is the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment is, “You shall not steal.”

Q. 74. *What is required in the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment requires that we utilize only lawful means in obtaining and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

Q. 75. *What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment forbids whatever does, or may, unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor’s, wealth or outward estate.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Lord’s Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

John 1:1-18

Congregational Response (Psalm 19) “The Heavens Declare Your Glory, Lord” Hymn 138

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 18:30)

Sermon

“Christ Alone”
John 1:15-18

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“I Will Sing of My Redeemer” Hymn 650

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in One,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

LORD’S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

We live in an age in which many people do not take issue with Jesus if he is put forth as one among many sources of wisdom and morality. The problem usually arises when we as Christians affirm that he is unique and the only source of spiritual truth and saving grace. In his prologue, the Apostle John clearly reveals that Jesus is unique. Jesus is not just a great moral teacher or a charismatic leader; he is God the Son, the eternal Word who existed before creation and through whom all things were made (John 1:1-3). As one preacher said, “We can never think too highly of Jesus. In fact, all of our thoughts about Christ are too low—he is greater than we can ever comprehend.”

1. For review, read John 1:1-14 and think about the many ways that Christ has been described by John (Christ is Light, Life, etc.). Which descriptions are the most comforting to you? Which ones are the most challenging to your understanding of God and the world?
2. Read John 1:15. John the Baptist was about 6 months older than Jesus. How does knowing this help you better understand the significance of his words?
3. Read John 1:16-17. What comparison is John making between Moses and Jesus? What did Jesus accomplish that Moses did not (and could not) accomplish? Read and consider how Hebrews 3:1-6 reveals Jesus’ superiority to Moses.
4. What is the significance of the phrase “grace upon grace” in v. 16?
5. Read John 1:18. In what way does Christ reveal God? Compare Exodus 33:30 with 1 John 1:3. Can you say, with confidence, that you know God? Why?
6. In preparation for next week, read John 1:19-34. What was the testimony of John the Baptist? What do you think John the Baptist was saying about who he is and who Jesus is?

