

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 1, 2018

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 118 (p. 828)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” Hymn 295

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we marvel today that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We were your enemies, living in stubborn opposition to your wisdom and grace, yet you loved us, pursued us, and brought us into your family.

All: We confess that despite the grace we have received in Jesus Christ, we have sinned against you and others with our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have failed to honor you and give you the thanks and praise you alone deserve.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant that as we hear your assurance of pardon, we would accept, receive, and rest on Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the Covenant of Grace.

All: All glory, honor, and praise be to you, O God, through 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

Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. 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.

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

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

“More Than Conquerors”

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 20

Q. 53. *What do you believe concerning “the Holy Spirit”?*

A. First, he, as well as the Father and the Son, is eternal God.

Second, he has been given to me personally, so that, by true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts me, and remains with me forever.

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*

Joshua 5:13 – 6:27

Congregational Response (Psalm 118)

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made” Hymn 389

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 32)

Sermon

“Faith and Courage”
Hebrews 11:30-31

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“Onward, Christian Soldiers” Hymn 572

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

Israel’s conquest of Jericho was by faith because, humanly speaking, the city was impenetrable, especially by a rag-tag bunch of former Israelite slaves. Jericho had shut the gate and was so completely closed to the Israelites that no one could go out or in (Joshua 6:1). And yet what seemed like an impossible situation was set up by God to demonstrate his power. We read that the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor” (Joshua 6:2).

Even the method that God instructed Israel to use against Jericho emphasized God’s power and not their own. Jericho’s thick walls did not fall to battering rams, but to the marching and shouting of God’s people. The method that seemed strange and foolish in the eyes of the world revealed that the “overwhelming power comes from God and not from us” (2 Corinthians 4:7). This power is most wonderfully displayed in the cross of Christ, which is “folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18). Why does God choose to use such seemingly weak and foolish methods? In order to shame those who are self-reliant and self-righteous, so that no human being might boast in his presence. “For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:25).

Questions:

1. Review last week’s readings from Exodus 12:21-51, 14:1-31, and Hebrews 11:27-29. How did Moses demonstrate faith in leading Israel out of Egypt? In what ways do the Passover and the Red Sea crossing point forward to Christ? What do they teach us about judgment and salvation?
2. Read Joshua 2. What was Rahab’s faith based upon? How do we know that she had true faith and was not just acting out of fear for her life? How does Rahab’s faith foreshadow the inclusion of the Gentiles in God’s plan of salvation?
3. Some people, even Christians, struggle to understand why God would command Israel’s violent conquest of the land of Canaan. How would you explain it to them, especially in light of Genesis 15:16?
4. What is the connection between the commander of the Lord’s army who appears in Joshua 5:13-15 and Israel’s victory in Joshua 6? What do you think God was teaching Israel through their defeat at Ai in Joshua 7?
5. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 11:32-40. In what way do you think Samson showed faith in the promises of God? What do you think the phrase “of whom the world was not worthy” means in verse 37?

