

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 8, 2018

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 86 (p. 814)

Hymn of Preparation*

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” Hymn 353

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we thank you for the grace and mercy you have shown us through our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. While we were still sinners, he died for us.

All: We confess in sorrow and frustration that we have sinned against you by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Our sins are shameful to us and offensive to you. All the wrongs that we have done are not hidden from you.

All: Forgive us, we pray, and grant us repentant hearts. Work in us to will and to do according to your good pleasure. Grant us prayerful hearts and willing minds that we might always seek to do what is pleasing in your sight. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Judges 6:1-32

Congregational Response “More Than Conquerors” (printed on the last page of the bulletin)

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21

Q. 54. *What do you believe concerning “the holy catholic Church”?*

A. I believe that the Son of God, through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

Q. 55. *What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?*

A. First, that believers one and all, as members of Christ the Lord, have communion with him and share in all his treasures and gifts.

Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

Q. 56. *What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins”?*

A. I believe that God, because of Christ’s atonement, will never hold against me any of my sins nor my sinful nature, which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather, in his grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology*

Hymn 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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*

1 Peter 1

Congregational Response (Psalm 118)

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

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 111)

Sermon

“Faith and Fulfillment”
Hebrews 11:32-40

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder” Hymn 172

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to TRINITY)

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore. Amen.

LORD’S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Hebrews 11 is a selective catalogue of Old Covenant saints who believed the promise that God would send a redeemer to save his people from their sins. This “hall of faith” begins with Abel, who worshipped God by faith. It proceeds through the patriarchs, Israel’s bondage in Egypt, the Exodus, and the conquest of the Promised Land. And now, toward the end, the author of Hebrews seems to become aware that if he proceeds as he has been, he will soon run out of parchment. Instead of describing the specific aspects of each person’s faith, he now provides a general summary in verses 32-35 of the triumphant faith of God’s people as they “conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises,” and accomplished many other great exploits. However, lest we believe that true faith is only evidenced by miraculous conquests and deliverances, the author of Hebrews also reminds us that many faithful Old Covenant saints also suffered. Rather than conquering by faith, it seems like they were conquered by evil. Yet even their suffering was by faith because they persevered, believing that God would fulfill his promises. Though they lost their lives, they did so for the sake of Christ. And in losing their lives, they found eternal life (Matthew 16:25).

Questions:

1. Review last week’s sermon text from Hebrews 11:30-31. What motivated Israel’s conquest of the land? What is important about the mention of Rahab and how she is described?
2. Read Hebrews 11:32 and use the marginal notes in your Bible to find the corresponding Old Testament passages that describe each of the saints listed. What did each of them do by faith? Who do the general descriptions in verses 33-35 describe?
3. How does v. 35 point to the resurrection faith of the Old Covenant saints?
4. Why do you think verses 35-38 were an encouragement to the original audience of this letter? What does “of whom the world was not worthy” mean?
5. How do verses 39-40 reveal the unity of the Old and New Covenants?
6. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 12:1-2. What are some of the “weights” in your life that might be hindering your running the race of faith? How does considering those listed in Hebrews 11 help you run?

