

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, September 15, 2019

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11:25

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 144 (p. 838)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious” Hymn 299

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God and Father, we confess that you are holy and perfect. We feel unworthy to enter into your presence because we again have failed to keep all your commandments.

All: We have sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Our sins trouble us because we know they have hurt others, they have brought us shame, and they are offensive to you.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Teach us to hate our sins; cleanse us from our secret transgressions, and help us to live in your light.

All: Thank you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:22-25

Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 27

Congregational Response

“O Word of God Incarnate” Hymn 140

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 67. *Which is the sixth commandment?*

A. The sixth commandment is, “You shall not murder.”

Q. 68. *What is required in the sixth commandment?*

A. The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own lives and the lives of others.

Q. 69. *What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?*

A. The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own lives or the lives of our neighbors unjustly, or whatever tends to do so.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 735

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*

Ephesians 2

Congregational Response (Psalm 150)

“Hallelujah! Hallelujah!” Hymn 10

Pastoral Prayer (based on Isaiah 41:8-10)

Sermon

“Life and Light”
John 1:4-5

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“Take My Life, and Let It Be” Hymn 585

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to Stuttgart [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit, be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Three of the most important themes in John's gospel appear in the prologue: life, light, and darkness. These themes help explain Jesus and his ministry, both the meaning and purpose of it. In essence, Jesus came to bring us from spiritual death to life, and in doing so, to give us the light of his salvation. When we trust in him, we move from death to life, and from darkness to light. Richard Phillips writes:

That is the way to life and light: to cease trusting in yourself or in anything else of this world that might commend you to God, and surrender your case into the hands of Jesus. “I have come into the world as light,” he said, “so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness” (John 12:46). That light is still shining, and through him you can have life everlasting, life abundant, life in Christ. “These are written,” says John, “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

1. For review, read John 1:1-3. What do these verses reveal about Jesus? What do they reveal about the Trinity? What applications for the Christian life can you draw from the doctrine of the Trinity?
2. What are some connections you see between Genesis 1 and John 1:4-5?
3. What do the following verses teach about spiritual death? Genesis 2:15-17; Ezekiel 37:1-3; Ephesians 2:1-3.
4. How does the Apostle Paul describe spiritual life according to Ephesians 2:4-10?
5. What do the following verses written by the Apostle John say about spiritual darkness? John 3:19-21; 8:12; 12:35-36, 45; 1 John 1:5-6; 2:7-11.
6. What does John mean when he writes that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5)?
7. In preparation for next Sunday, read John 1:6-9. Who was John the Baptist? How do you think John's ministry prepared the way for Jesus' ministry?

