

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 6, 2017

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him,
and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:1-3

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 97 (p. 820)

Hymn of Preparation*

“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art” Hymn 35

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God and Father, we acknowledge this morning that you are good and upright, and that by your Word you instruct us in your ways.

All: We confess that we have not obeyed your Word. We have given in to the deceit of our hearts and have done what is wicked and displeasing in your sight.

Leader: You know our hearts; nothing is hidden from your sight. We feel guilty and ashamed because of our sinful thoughts, our careless words, and our evil deeds. Forgive us, O Lord.

All: Thank you for your assurance of forgiveness, that in Christ all our sins have been atoned for. Increase our faith, that we will believe this and not doubt. For we ask this through the merit and mediation of the Lord Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 5:6-9

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.”

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

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

Congregational Response

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship” Hymn 381

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 82. *Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?*

A. No mere man, since the Fall, is able, in this life, to keep perfectly the commandments of God, but does break them daily in thought, word, and deed.

Q. 83. *Are all transgressions of the law equally wicked?*

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of aggravating circumstances, are more wicked in the sight of God than others.

Q. 84. *What does every sin deserve?*

A. Every sin deserves God’s wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come.

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*

Hebrews 1

Congregational Response (based on Psalm 97)

“Jehovah Reigns” Hymn 63

Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 6:25-34)

Sermon

“God’s Superior Son”
Hebrews 1:1-3

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright” Hymn 58

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

The writer of Hebrews wrote to exhort his readers, who were primarily Jewish converts to Christianity, to persevere in their faith in Christ. Their temptation was to leave Christianity because of persecution and to return to the comfortable and familiar Older Covenant institutions. What we read in the opening verses of Hebrews is a tightly packed summary of the author’s argument—that Jesus is the sum and substance of the types and shadows of the Older Covenant. The Hebrews are therefore to “pay closer attention,” “hold fast,” “draw near,” “press on,” because to forsake Christ is to forsake the reality of all that the Older Covenant pointed to. Jesus Christ brings in something altogether better than the old, preparatory era could provide (Hebrews 11:40). Richard Phillips writes, “Jesus is the perfect and all-sufficient answer from God for our everlasting blessing. The significance of this for the original readers is obvious: If you have a Savior like this, you never let him go. If you have to lose your job, your family, your possessions—even your life—then so be it. Jesus said, ‘Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?’ (Luke 9:24-25). What great profit it is, then, to gain Christ, and eternal life with him, even if all the world needs to be lost.”

The reading is Colossians 1.

Questions:

1. Consider the context of Christianity in the first century and the persecution believers faced. What similarities are there in the present day? What do you think are the most important things for persecuted Christians to keep in mind about our faith in order to persevere?
2. Read *The Westminster Larger Catechism* Q/A 42-43. Why is Christ superior to the prophets of the Older Covenant?
3. Read *The Westminster Larger Catechism* Q/A 44. Why is Christ superior to the priests of the Older Covenant?
4. Read *The Westminster Larger Catechism* Q/A 45. Why is Christ superior to the kings of the Older Covenant?
5. What insights from Hebrews 1:1-3 do you feel are most significant for you at this point in your life? How will these truths affect your thoughts, attitudes, habits, and priorities?