

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 12, 2017

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:27-28

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 44 (p. 801)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Sing Praise to the Lord” Hymn 21

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Eternal and Almighty Father, we confess and acknowledge that we have sinned and done what is evil in your sight. We have strayed from your ways like lost sheep, and we are grieved that we have offended you.

All: We thank you that you never allow us to be comfortable in our sin, but instead draw us to yourself by your Word and Spirit. The misery of unconfessed sin is a grace; thank you for the gift of godly sorrow.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Apart from Christ we could never stand in your presence. Yet in him you have called us to draw near. In ourselves, we are unworthy, but in the Lord Jesus we boldly approach your throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

All: All glory be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Isaiah 5:1-7

Congregational Response

“God the All-Terrible!” Hymn 711

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 4. *What is God?*

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Q. 5. *Are there more Gods than one?*

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q. 6. *How many Persons are there in the Godhead?*

A. There are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

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*

Mark 4:1-20

Congregational Response (based on Psalm 36:5-10) “Thy Mercy and Thy Truth” Hymn 60

Sacrament of Baptism Hymn: “Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep”

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, all thy lambs in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand; none can pluck them from thy hand.

May they praise thee every day, gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessed ones above, happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near, teach thy lambs thy voice to hear;
Suffer not their steps to stray from the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest may they go, walking in thy steps below,
Then, before thy Father's throne, Savior, claim them for thine own.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 5:8)

Sermon “Full Assurance” Hebrews 6:4-12 Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving* “It Is Well with My Soul” Hymn 691

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 learn in Hebrews 6:4-12 that it is possible for a person to be instructed in the Christian faith and seem to be a believer outwardly and yet for that same person to never actually possess true faith. Demas, Simon Magus, and Judas Iscariot are all clear examples in Scripture of those who professed faith yet never possessed true faith. The Lord Jesus warns us that there will come a day when many will say, ““Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?” Then [he] will tell them plainly, “I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”” (Matthew 7:22-23). Are we then to live in crippling fear as Christians because we might be among those who fall away? By no means! Passages such as these in Scripture are meant to remind us to have full assurance in the proper foundation—in Christ and his finished work.

Questions:

1. For review, read Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3. How would you describe a mature Christian? What is the connection between the Hebrews' temptation to turn from Christ back to the Older Covenant religion and their spiritual immaturity?
2. Read Hebrews 6:4-12. What kind of person do verses 4-6 describe? Why is it impossible to restore them again to repentance? How do passages such as Mark 4:1-20 and 1 John 2:19 help us understand apostasy?
3. What is the connection between “earnestness” and “the full assurance of hope until the end” in verse 11? Can a Christian grow without effort on his part, or without the aid of the Holy Spirit?
4. How would you help someone who, having made a Christian profession, now fears that he or she has become an apostate?
5. Read and discuss *Westminster Confession of Faith* 18 (The Assurance of Grace and Salvation). Can we have assurance? Why do you think the Westminster Assembly included the phrase, “This infallible assurance does not so belong to the essence of faith but that a true believer may wait long and contend with many difficulties before he partakes of it” (section 3)?
6. Read Hebrews 6:13-20 in preparation for next Sunday. How should God's changelessness encourage us?