

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 26, 2017

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 46 (p. 802)

Hymn of Preparation*

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

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we approach your throne of grace repenting of our sins against you and others. You know our hearts better than we do. You know the sins that we have committed that we are not even conscious of. Nothing is hidden from your sight.

All: We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: Forgive us our sins and grant us the assurance of forgiveness by faith in Jesus Christ. Renew in us the joy of our salvation and cause us to walk in newness of life.

All: We pray this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, 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

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

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

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 110

Congregational Response

“God the All-Terrible!” Hymn 711

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (p. 845)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended into hell;

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 6

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

Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 5:10)

Sermon “A Priest Forever” Pastor Ben Muresan
Hebrews 7:1-10

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper “What Wondrous Love Is This” Hymn 261

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving* “The Church’s One Foundation” Hymn 347

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

May the peace of God, our heav’nly Father,
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

REFRAIN

And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his communion,
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

LORD’S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Hebrews 4:14, the author begins to encourage the Hebrews by explaining why Christ is our Great High Priest. However, by 5:11 he pauses his explanation because he is concerned that because of their immaturity they do not understand the full significance of the doctrine he is teaching them. Now with the beginning of chapter 7, the writer again takes up the subject of Christ’s priesthood in earnest, showing why Jesus is superior to the Older Covenant priesthood. This is an important teaching considering the Hebrews’ temptation to return to the safety and familiarity of Judaism. While our temptation is not necessarily to convert to Judaism, we are similarly tempted to doubt Christ’s power to save us to the uttermost and to turn to other sources of comfort and assurance. And so we, like the Hebrews, need to pay much closer attention to what Scripture teaches us about our superior Savior. He is the one who was revealed to the Older Covenant saints by types and shadows and who came in the fullness of time according to God’s purpose and plan to redeem his people.

Questions:

1. For review, read Hebrews 6:13-20. Why does the author use Abraham as an example of a person in the Old Testament who through faith and patience inherited the promises? (v. 12) How do God’s promise and oath, his unchangeable nature, and Christ’s finished work of redemption provide us with certain hope?
2. Read Genesis 14. Why is it significant that Melchizedek used the name “God Most High” when he blessed Abraham? What does this indicate about Melchizedek’s faith?
3. Read Hebrews 7:1-10. In what ways is Melchizedek like Jesus?
4. Why is it significant that Melchizedek blessed Abraham and received tithes from him?
5. How does this teaching on Melchizedek in Hebrews help us understand the importance of reading the Old Testament in light of the New? Do you agree with the following statement by Saint Augustine? “The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed.”
6. Read Hebrews 7:11-28 in preparation for next Sunday. What are some of the contrasts between Christ’s priesthood and the Levitical one? Which of the two is superior and why?