

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 5, 2017

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,
in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:29

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 36 (p. 797)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Hymn 32

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty and Merciful Father, we confess that no day passes that does not prove us guilty in your sight. We have sinned against you and others, and we are ashamed of our failures.

All: Forgive us, O Lord, as we humble ourselves before you. In your mercy and grace, do not treat us as our sins deserve, but assure us of your pardon and peace.

Leader: Grant that by resting in Christ’s righteousness alone we may hereafter walk in newness of life and run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith.

All: We ask all 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

Colossians 1:17-20

And Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

Congregational Response

“God the All-Terrible!” Hymn 711

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2. *What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?*

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Q. 3. *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology*

Hymn 732

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*

Ephesians 4:1-16

Congregational Response (based on Psalm 36:5-10)

“Thy Mercy and Thy Truth” Hymn 60

Pastoral Prayer (based on 2 Corinthians 6:3-10)

Sermon

“Pilgrim’s Progress”
Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“I Will Sing of My Redeemer” Hymn 650

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

As the writer to the Hebrews explains the glorious ministry of Christ our Great High Priest, he rebukes his audience for their spiritual immaturity. The Hebrews had become “dull of hearing” and unwilling to strive toward understanding the whole counsel of God. By the time of his writing to them, the Hebrews should have been able to teach others about the faith, building upon what they had already learned. But instead they remained “spiritual babies” and had not progressed in their understanding. In fact they had regressed and needed to be re-taught the basics of the Christian faith. So what’s the big deal? What we see is that there is a direct correlation between perseverance and Christian maturity and understanding. Christianity is more than just a fleeting experience of conversion, but it is a life-long pilgrimage of growing in our faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. It involves learning, and praying, and seeking, extending our roots down deep into the truths of our faith so that we “may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes” (Ephesians 4:14).

Questions:

1. Read Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10. What aspects of Christ’s mediatorial role as our Great High Priest are mentioned in these verses? Why might these things be difficult for some Christians to understand?
2. In Hebrews 5:11, the writer says that the Hebrews had “become dull of hearing” (spiritually sluggish or lazy). What might cause a Christian to regress this way? Have you experienced this? What brought it about?
3. How would you describe a mature Christian according to Hebrews 5:11 – 6:1? Think about the Christians you know and admire. What is it about their lives and their faith that is most admirable?
4. What is the connection between the Hebrews’ temptation to turn from Christ back to the Older Covenant religion and their spiritual immaturity? Consider *Westminster Confession of Faith* 18.3-4 and Ephesians 4:12-16 as you formulate your answer.
5. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 6:4-12. What, at this point, is your understanding of this passage? Why do you think the Holy Spirit gives us such strong warnings in Scripture?