

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 3, 2017

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke 4:18-19

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 110 (p. 825)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” Hymn 311

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God, as we recount the many ways we have sinned against you this past week, our hearts are heavy. We feel the burden of our sins as we are weighed down by guilt and shame.

All: We confess that we have spoken hurtful and careless words, that we have acted wickedly, and that our minds have been preoccupied with the things of this world.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Free us from both the penalty and power of sin, so that it might not be master over us, and grant that we might live in holiness and righteousness to the glory of your holy name.

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

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

“O Christ, Our King, Creator, Lord” Hymn 174

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 10. *How did God create man?*

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

Q. 11. *What are God’s works of providence?*

A. God’s works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Q. 12. *What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate in which he was created?*

A. When God created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, on the pain of death.

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*

Acts 6

Congregational Response (based on Psalm 110) “Unto My Lord Jehovah Said” Hymn 313

Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 5:11-12)

Sermon “Our Indestructible Priest” Pastor Ben Muresan
Hebrews 7:11-19

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving* “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymn 196

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

One of the objections the Hebrew Christians faced from their Jewish family and friends was Jesus’ qualifications as high priest. The objections might have sounded something like this: “How can you trust in Jesus’ atonement for your sins when he is not a descendant of the tribe of Levi? He’s not qualified to atone for your sins because he’s not a priest according to the Law of Moses.” In Hebrews 7:11-19, the inspired author readily acknowledges this objection and counters by pointing to Christ’s appointment as priest after the order of Melchizedek. The Levitical priesthood was unable to bring about the perfection that was needed for God’s people, and so God had decreed from eternity that there would be a different priesthood that would bring that perfection. And so Jesus’ not being from the tribe of Levi is not a weakness but a strength, as it reveals Jesus is part of an eternal priesthood, one that brings the perfection required by a holy God. And so in Christ we can now draw near to God, in full assurance of faith, because in him we have a better hope, one that will not disappoint.

Questions:

1. For review, read Hebrews 7:1-10. In what ways is Melchizedek like Jesus? Why is it significant that Melchizedek blessed Abraham and received tithes from him?
2. Read Matthew 5:17-20; Acts 6:8-15; and 10:9-17. How do these Scripture passages correct the misunderstanding some early Christians had regarding God’s law and Jesus’ ministry? Why did some believe that God was acting in contraction to his previous revelation?
3. Read Hebrews 7:11. Why was the Levitical priesthood unable to bring perfection? What were some evidences in the Older Covenant that revealed the priesthood’s weaknesses?
4. Read *Westminster Confession of Faith* 19. What purposes did the ceremonial and civil laws serve in the Older Covenant? What can we learn from them as Christians?
5. What better hope does the priestly ministry of Jesus Christ introduce? (Hebrews 7:19)
6. Read Hebrews 7:20-28 in preparation for next Sunday. What do you think the intercession of Jesus looks like now in heaven? How does this comfort you and give you boldness and joy?