

August 20, 2023
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Ps 95:6

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Invocation

#92

The Law of Christ:

Col 3:12-15

Pastor: The Apostle Paul summarized the moral law of God by saying,

Congregation: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Pastor: Beloved we have not done this as we ought; therefore, let us confess our sin:

Corporate Confession of sin:

Great Shepherd of the sheep, we confess our lack of trust, our anxiety despite your assurance, our restlessness despite your offered peace, our covetousness despite your abundant provision, our never believing we have enough. Our only hope is in the merits of your Son and our Great Savior. Please forgive us and renew us that we may so rely on your faithfulness as to pursue a new obedience and find freedom to be generous givers and grateful stewards of your bounty - Through Jesus the great lover of our souls. Amen.

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon: Col 2:13

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.

Congregation: We give praise to God who has liberated us from our trespasses.

Pastor: How has He freed you from your trespasses?

Congregation: He has canceled the record of debt that stood against us, having crucified it in Christ at the cross (Col 2:14).

All: Praise and glory be to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Colossians 3:1

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Congregation: We praise you for the position we have in Christ. We pray that our lives will reflect him in all we do. Thank you that in Christ we too have died to sin. Help us to set our minds on the heavenly things so that we would love you above all and our neighbors as ourselves.

Response:

Minister: It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. (Ps 92:1)

Congregation: For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts! (Ps 92:4-5)

Hymn: Victory in Jesus (HWC #473)

[See Insert]

Confession of Faith: *Shorter Catechism in Modern English*

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

The decrees of God are his eternal plan, according to the purpose of his will, by which, for his own glory, he has foreordained whatever comes to pass; yet in such a manner as to be in no way the author of sin.

Q. 8. How does God carry out his decrees?

God carries out his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Q. 9. What is the work of creation?

The work of creation is the making by God of all things from nothing, by his powerful word, in the space of six days, and all very good.

Song: Creation Sings the Father's song,

Creation sings the Father's song;
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day
Till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow,
His breath upon this spinning globe,
He charts the eagle's flight;
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

CHORUS

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing,
"Hallelujah!" Fill the earth with songs of worship;
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon His face;
The ageless One in time's embrace
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally.

Chorus:

Creation longs for His return,
When Christ shall reign upon the earth;

The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky,
All heav'n will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme:
The glories of our God and King!
Chorus:

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: Luke 17:20-37

Psalter: Ps 89:1-4,14-18, 28,29 My Song Forever Shall Record

#99

Epistle: Gal 3:10-20

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"--

so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified.

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void.

For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

Why then the law?

It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

Sermon: The Jews Win Esther 7:1-9:17

Lord's Supper

Bread: What Tho I Cannot Break My Chain

#458

Cup: I Will Boast in the Cross,

God did not call us because we were wise
Or gifted with riches and might
His chosen ones are the weak in this world
Who hope in His all saving name,
That He might receive all the praise.

Chorus

So I will boast in the cross of Christ
And I will glory in Jesus and His sacrifice.
I will boast in the cross of Christ.
It is the power; it is the wisdom of God
And my great ransom, the cross of Christ.

Great is the mystery of God's sovereign ways
That flow from the depths of His grace.
That He would give up His one precious Son
To bear all the cost of my sin,
Is a wonder I can't comprehend.
(Chorus)

Offering:
Doxology:

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.

Prayer

Closing Song: **May the Grace of Christ Our Savior**

May the grace of Christ our Savior
And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor,
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion,
Joys, which earth cannot afford.

Benediction

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