

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 8, 2019

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 5 (p. 786)

Hymn of Preparation*

Hymn 197

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken. Amen.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God, you are rich in mercy to all those who call upon you. Hear us as we come to you humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring your mercy and forgiveness.

All: We have broken your holy laws by our careless deeds, our hurtful words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before you our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and unbelief, and all our failures and shortcomings toward you and others.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Apart from Christ there is nothing in us that gives us reason for hope, yet in him we have received pardon and are clothed in his righteousness. Grant us to believe your assurance of forgiveness and to live godly, righteous, and devout lives as we await our Savior's return.

All: All glory, honor, and praise be to you, O God, through 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

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Jeremiah 7:1-26

Congregational Response

(also printed on the last page of the bulletin)

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not of flesh and blood the Son,
Offspring of the Holy One;
Born of Mary, ever blest,
God in flesh is manifest.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heav'n enthroned.

From the Father forth he came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell,
High the song of triumph swell!

Thou, the Father's only Son,
Hast o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 94. *What is Baptism?*

A. Baptism is a sacrament, in which the washing with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, does signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and receiving of the benefits of the Covenant of Grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

Q. 95. *To whom is Baptism to be administered?*

A. Baptism is not to be administered to any who are out of the visible Church, until they profess their faith in Christ and obedience to him; but the infants of those who are members of the visible Church are to be baptized.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology*

Hymn 731

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*

Romans 3:9-26

Congregational Response

Hymn 311

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth;
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness, in fountains,
From hill to valley flow.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blessed;
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His Name shall stand forever—
That Name to us is Love. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Titus 2:11-14)

Sermon

“The Second Sign: Clearing the Temple”
John 2:13-25

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 195

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love. Amen.

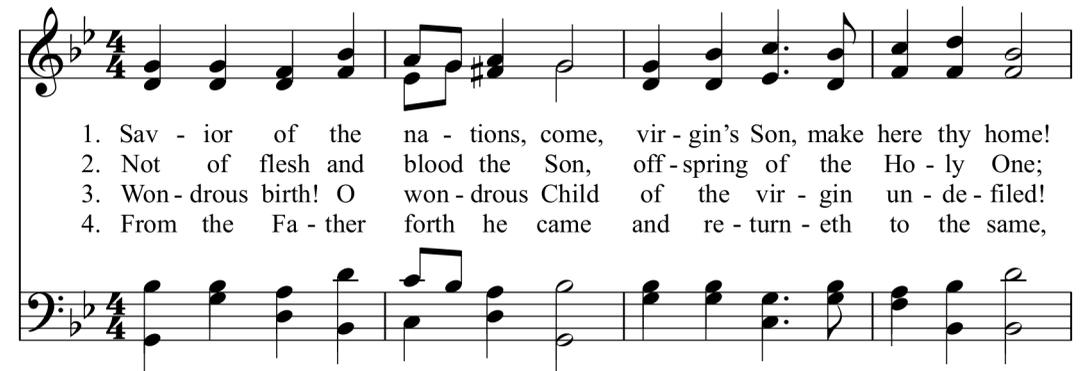
LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

God provided a temple in order that his covenant people might have a place to gather in order to worship their covenant God. The temple was the sign of God's grace because it signified his presence among them and his gracious condescension to live in their midst. It was to be a house of prayer and a place of true, heartfelt worship. However, when Jesus entered the temple, he recognized that the temple had decreased into a house of trade rather than a house of worship. Israel had once again strayed from the Lord and their hearts were far from him. By clearing the temple, Jesus demonstrated that God cares about how we worship him. We must worship him in the way that he has instructed us in his Word and from a heart that is truly devoted to him. The Westminster Confession of Faith 21.1 explains:

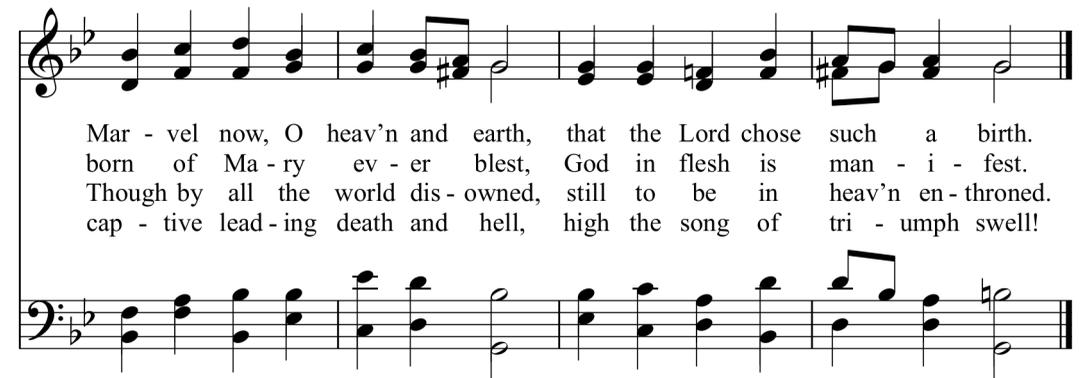
The light of nature shows that there is a God who has lordship and sovereignty over all, that he is good and does good to all, and that he ought therefore to be feared, loved, praised, prayed to, trusted in, and served with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshiping the true God has been instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshiped according to the imaginations or devisings of men, or the suggestions of Satan, or under any visible representation, or any other way not commanded in Holy Scripture.

1. For review, read John 2:1-12. Why did Jesus turn the water into wine?
2. Read Deuteronomy 14:22-27 and John 2:13-14. What were the people in the temple doing that made Jesus angry?
3. Read John 2:15-17. What was Jesus' response? Why is it significant that Psalm 69:9 is cited?
4. How is Jesus' clearing of the temple also an illustration of our ongoing need of sanctification? How does this account help us understand our need to be vigilant in driving out sin from our lives by grace through the power of the Spirit?
5. What was Jesus revealing by his response in John 2:18-22? Some Christians believe that the temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt in order that sacrifices might once again be offered to God. How would you explain to them from Scripture that this Old Covenant means of worship has become obsolete?
6. Do you find comfort in what you read in John 2:23-25, namely that the Lord knows our hearts? Why or why not?
7. In preparation for next week, read John 3:1-21. Why do you think Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus was teaching about regeneration?

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, vir - gin's Son, make here thy home!
 2. Not of flesh and blood the Son, off - spring of the Ho - ly One;
 3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
 4. From the Fa - ther forth he came and re - turn - eth to the same,



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 born of Ma - ry ev - er blest, God in flesh is man - i - fest.
 Though by all the world dis - owned, still to be in heav'n en - throned.
 cap - tive lead - ing death and hell, high the song of tri - umph swell!

5. Thou, the Father's only Son,
 hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
 Boundless shall thy kingdom be;
 when shall we its glories see?

6. Praise to God the Father sing,
 Praise to God the Son, our King,
 Praise to God the Spirit be
 ever and eternally.

Ambrose of Milan, 340–397
 Tr. Martin Luther, 1524
 Tr. William M. Reynolds, 1860; alt.

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND 7.7.7.7.
 Adapted from *Geistliches Gesangbüchlein*, Wittenberg, 1524