

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 126 (p. 832)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Sing Praise to the Lord” Hymn 21

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we enter into worship acknowledging that you are holy and righteous, perfect and just in all your ways.

All: We confess our sins and offenses against you. You know how often we have wandered from your ways, wasted your gifts, and forgotten your love for us. Our sins are too many to count, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

Leader: Forgive us and restore to us the joy of our salvation. Work in us by your Holy Spirit to renew our wills and strengthen our resolve to follow what you teach us in your Word.

All: We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord, 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.

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

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Numbers 32:1-32

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month) “O That I Had a Thousand Voices” Hymn 22

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 22. *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

Q. 23. *What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

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*

Hebrews 4:1-13

Congregational Response (from Psalm 79:8-13)

“Remember Not, O God” Hymn 488

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 95)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Entering God’s Rest”

Joshua 1:10-18

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” Hymn 679

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

I’ve noticed that one of the common responses people give after I ask, “How are you doing?” is “I’m tired.” Whether it’s a young mother dealing with a colicky baby, a student during finals week, or an older adult with difficulty sleeping, many people feel tired. In the midst of this struggle, God promises us his rest. This rest does not necessarily equate to more naps, but it involves rest from the curse of sin and the pain that comes with living in a fallen world. God promised that Israel would find rest in the Promised Land that he gave them as an inheritance. Kim Riddlebarger writes:

Throughout the Book of Joshua, a time of rest for the people of Israel follows deliverance from their enemies (Joshua 21:44; 22:4; 23:1). Later on in Israel’s history, the idea of rest (in this same sense of being delivered from enemies) will point ahead to a time in the future (in the Messianic Age), when God’s people would dwell safely in the land, finally delivered from all their enemies so that the people can live in peace (Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-4). At this point in redemptive history, it was Israel’s defeat of the Canaanites which would secure the promised rest. Israel has already escaped from the armies of Pharaoh, and they have defeated the Amalekites. Now the tribes of Canaan are added to the list. It is victory which secures the time of rest. This same pattern is found in the New Testament, when Jesus secures rest for the people of God, by conquering our greatest enemy, the guilt and power of sin.

1. For review, read Joshua 1:1-9. On what basis did God command Joshua to be “strong and courageous” as Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land? How would you apply this same command to the Christian life?
2. Read Joshua 1:10-18. What do you notice about Joshua’s response to the Lord’s command? Did he hesitate? Do you think the Lord was commanding something that was easy or difficult?
3. What do you learn about the importance of church unity in these verses, especially as you consider our First Reading from Numbers 32:1-32? Why is it important for us to see ourselves more as a body of believers than merely as individual Christians who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Compare your answer with Ephesians 4:1-16.
4. What is significant about the repetition of the word “rest” in Joshua 1:10-18? How does Hebrews 4:1-13 give us greater insight into the importance of the rest God provides for his people?
5. In preparation for next week, read Joshua 2. As you consider Rahab’s profession and pedigree, why do you think it’s significant that Rahab expressed faith in God (verse 11)?

