

Joint Reformation Service

Aisquith Presbyterian Church

October 27, 2019

6:00 PM

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

Whatsoever resistance we see today offered by almost all the world to the progress of the truth, we must not doubt that our Lord will come at last to break through all the undertakings of men and make a passage for His Word. Let us hope boldly, then, more than we can understand; He will still surpass our opinion and our hope.

John Calvin (16th century)

Prelude

Mr. Stephen Holmes, Artistic Director

The Maryland State Boychoir

Mrs. Anne Anthony, Music Director

Timonium Presbyterian Church

The LORD Calls Us to Glorify and Enjoy Him

*The Call to Worship

Psalm 145:3-7 (ESV)

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

*Hymn No. 92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; is rage we can endure,
For lo! His doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them abideth;
The spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

*Invocation

The LORD Welcomes Us to His Throne of Grace

We Confess Our Sin (unison)

Almighty God, you have invited all those who hunger and thirst to come, and you will freely satisfy their desires with the richness of your grace. You have urged us to seek you while you may be

found, to forsake our wicked ways and thoughts, and turn to you for mercy and pardon. And yet, even as we hear this gospel summons our minds wonder why a holy God would offer love and life to sinful man. We cannot understand your grace and our hearts hesitate to accept your mercy freely extended. Your thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are your ways our ways. We would rather bargain for the grace you offer freely. We would rather work to earn your favor. Yet you will not negotiate with us. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so it is impossible for us to reach up to you. Instead, you have stooped to lay hold of us. You have bridged creation's gap by taking on our flesh. You have walked our stony paths in perfect obedience. You have humbled yourself and borne our punishment. You have swallowed up our death and given us life. The Innocent has died and the guilty are set free! In gratitude we bow before you Sovereign Lord, King of the Universe. We look to the Cross for our pardon; to Christ for our peace. Fill our hungry mouths and satisfy our souls with your grace. Help us live before you in joy as we await our Savior's Return. Amen.

Assurance of Pardoning Grace (responsive)

Romans 3:21-25a; 5:1, 2 (ESV)

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith...

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

*Hymn

The Power of the Cross

Getty/Townend

O, to see the dawn of the darkest day; Christ on the road to Calvary.

Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then, nailed to a cross of wood—

This the pow'r of the cross; Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame, bore the wrath; We stand forgiven at the cross.

O, to see the pain written on Your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.

Ev'ry bitter thought, every evil deed crowning Your blood stained brow—

This the pow'r...

Now the daylight flees; Now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.

Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life—"Finished!" the vict'ry cry—

This the pow'r...

O, to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suffering I am free.

Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live, won through Your selfless love!

This the pow'r of the cross; Son of God slain for us.

What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross

*We Confess Our Faith (responsive)

from The Belgic Confession (1561)

What do you believe about the work of God?

We believe that God—who is perfectly merciful and also very just—sent his Son to assume the nature in which the disobedience had been committed, in order to bear in it the punishment of sin by his most bitter passion and death.

And what do you believe about the work of Jesus Christ?

We believe that Jesus Christ presented himself in our name before his Father, to appease his wrath with full satisfaction by offering himself on the tree of the cross and pouring out his precious blood for the cleansing of our sins, as the prophets had predicted.

Why did he endure all this?

He endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.

What comfort does this give you?

We find all comforts in his wounds and have no need to seek or invent any other means to reconcile ourselves with God than this one and only sacrifice, once made, which renders believers perfect forever.

Choral Anthem

How Firm a Foundation (hymnal #94)

arr. Dan Forrest
Combined Choir

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (in unison)

The Offering and Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory

Reformation Song

Bob Kauflin and Tim Chester
Steven Holmes, soloist

Your Word alone is solid ground, The mighty rock on which we build;
In every line the truth is found And every page with glory filled.

Through faith alone we come to You; We have no merit we can claim.
Sure that Your promises are true, We place our hope in Jesus' name.

CHORUS: Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone; Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

Christ alone we're justified; His righteousness is all our plea;
Your law's demands are satisfied; His perfect work has set us free.

By grace alone we have been saved; All that we are has come from You.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved Now by Your pow'r have been made new.

*Hymn No. 30 (vv. 1-4, 7)

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
O be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

The LORD Speaks to Us through His Word

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, who through the preaching of thy servants, the blessed reformers, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine forth: Grant, we beseech thee, that knowing its saving power, we may faithfully guard and defend it against all enemies, and joyfully proclaim it, to the salvation of souls and the glory of thy Holy name; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Prayer for Reformation Day, The Lutheran Service Book

Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 1:8-12 (ESV)

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who

abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹² which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

Sermon

“Isn’t the Gospel Grand?”

Dr. D. Ralph Davis

We Respond to the LORD’s Merciful Grace

We must make a great difference between God’s word and the word of man. A man’s word is a little sound which flieth into the air, and soon vanisheth; but the word of God is greater than heaven and earth, yea, it is greater than death and hell, for it is the power of God, and remaineth everlastingly. Therefore we ought diligently to learn God’s word, and we must know certainly and believe that God Himself speaketh with us.

Martin Luther

*Hymn of Response

O Church Arise

Getty/Townend

O church, arise and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain;
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We’ll stand against the devil’s lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is “Love!”
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev’ry side,
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—
An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict’ry march continues till the day
Ev’ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in ev’ry stride,
Give grace for ev’ry hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

*Benediction

Postlude

***Those who are able, please stand.**

We welcome Dr. D. Ralph Davis to our pulpit this evening. Dr. Davis was the pastor of Aisquith from 1988 to 1994. He has taught at Belhaven College and Reformed Theological Seminary and is a prolific author.

Please join us down stairs for a time of fellowship and refreshments after the service.

After our expenses are covered, tonight's offering will go to support the Presbyterian Church in America's Ministerial Relief Fund. Please give generously so that we can supply the needs of the widows and orphans of those who have served our church, and provide assistance to those retirees in financial difficulty.

We would like to thank all those who participated in our service tonight, especially those who used their musical abilities to assist us in worship. Our special thanks to Anne Anthony for coordinating the choir and playing the piano, and to Stephen Holmes for his contributions.

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