

July 18, 2021

*This is the day that the LORD has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24*

Prelude

Selection by PM

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 72:8-11
ESV

⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!⁹ May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

***Hymn of Praise**

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

No. 353

I love Thy kingdom, Lord, the house of Thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved with His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God: her walls before Thee stand,
dear as the apple of Thine eye, and graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend;
to her my cares and toils be giv'n, till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heav'nly ways,
her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

Jesus, Thou Friend divine, our Savior and our King,
Thy hand from ev'ry snare and foe shall great deliv'rance bring.

Sure as Thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be giv'n
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heav'n.

Hymns from *Trinity Hymnal* used by permission of Great Commission Publications.

***Prayer of Invocation**

Scripture Reading

Gen. 41:37-56

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Heavenly Father, by nature we are people full of anger and bitterness and resentment. We resent attention and honor being given to others or taken away from us. We get bitter over what we perceive to be slights, or when you in your providence do not bring us what we think we should have. We get angry when we don't get things our way. All this because we have made ourselves gods and have arrogated to ourselves what properly belongs only to you. Sanctify us, our Lord. By the power of your Spirit, enable us to let go of these sins, to put them to death. Let us begin by recognizing that they are sins. Show us the true heart of these sins. Enable us to humble ourselves and pray, not only for your forgiveness, but for your grace to live more humble, peaceable, and holy lives. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Psalm 72:12-14
ESV

¹² For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
what but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
heav'ns morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

WSC 42-44

Q. 42. What is the sum of the ten commandments?

A. The sum of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Q. 43. What is the preface to the ten commandments?

A. The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Q. 44. What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us?

A. The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us that because God is the Lord, and our God, and redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

Prayer of Intercession

Offering

Selection by PM

***Doxology**

No. 731

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis myst'ry all! Th'Immortal dies: who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more.
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above (so free, so infinite his grace!)
Humbled himself (so great his love!), and bled for all his chosen race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

This is a perplexing parable because at first Jesus seems to be commending dishonesty. To understand this, one must consider:

- 1) The comparison is ‘how worldly people relate to worldly matters’ compared with ‘how spiritual people (Christians) relate to spiritual matters.’, and
- 2) the job description for a manager (steward) in 1st Century Judea, vv. 1-2.

1. Stewards (vv. 1-7)

- a. Your money is not your money, it all belongs to God.
- b. Malachi 3:8

2. Friendship (vv. 9, 14-18)

- a. v.8, What is the dishonest manager being commended for?
Answer: He put off short term financial gain for greater long term gain.
- b. What did the dishonest manager choose to invest in long term? _____
- c. Put your money into eternal glory...!!!

3. Love (vv. 8,10-13)

- a. v. 9, Eternal dwellings
- b. 5 barriers to love:
 - 1) we want to be loved for our own sake,
 - 2) we want to express our love without impediment (pride, selfishness, cold-heartedness, etc.),
 - 3) love is not mutual,
 - 4) your happiness is dependent upon those you love,
 - 5) Parting.
- c. “To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”
— C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

Questions:

1. How does this parable show us the importance of context when interpreting a biblical text?
2. According to this passage, what is the best way to become more generous? Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9. In verse 9, who are we compare our generosity to? Why?
3. How can you invest your money in eternal things? What is one practical step that you can take to ensure this happens?
4. How does Good Shepherd invest into people? How do you personally invest in people?

*Hymn of Response

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

No. 457

Come, Thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God:
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love:
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

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*Benediction

*Gloria Patri

No. 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Hymns from *Trinity Hymnal* used by permission of Great Commission Publications.

***Postlude**

Selection by PM

*** Congregation:** Please stand as able.

Piano
Intercessory Prayer

Paige Mecyssine
Andrew Gretzinger

Weekly Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
SUN 7/18	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	(available YouTube & Facebook)	
SUN 7/25	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	(available YouTube & Facebook)	

Serving the Lord

	7/18	7/25	8/1	8/8
AM Nursery	Felicia	Lorrie	Kathleen	Yon
Greeters	Lash Fam	Alice	Phyllis	Cherie Lee
Treats	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serve/Cleanup	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Audio	J. Martin	B. Armstrong	J. Martin	B. Armstrong
Elder of the Week	Gretzinger	Lindborg	Gretzinger	Hrivnak
Deacon of the Week	Jim	Jason	Jim	Jason
Communion Prep	N/A	N/A	Hrivnak	N/A

Announcements

- **Missions Summer Reading Program:** Keep reading...the summer is ending soon!