

Sunday, March 23, 2014

Welcome – Greg Snow

The Lord Our God Is Holy – *Psalm 99:1-5*

Hear the word of God found in Psalm 99, Verses 1-5:

*The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome
name! Holy is he! The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed
justice and righteousness in Jacob. Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!*

The worship of God is of such importance that it requires thoughtful preparation. Worship does not begin in the sanctuary, but in the heart and in the homes of individuals and families. In order to truly worship our holy God we need to cultivate hearts that are ready to change, ready to be moulded and shaped by the loving hands of God, as we offer ourselves wholeheartedly in worship.

Let's take the next few moments to pray to God asking Him to silence all voices within our minds, so that we may focus on the holy voice of God and be pleasing unto Him. May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith, that together we may worship God and glorify His holy name. Let's pray.

Call to Worship – *Psalm 92:1-2; 95:1-2*

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.

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

We have gathered to praise our gracious God!

The Lord's name be praised!

Song of Worship – *For the Beauty of the Earth*

O Give Thanks to the Lord – *1 Chronicles 16:34-36*

*O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
Then say,*

*“Save us, O God of our salvation,
And gather us and deliver us from the nations,
To give thanks to Your holy name,
And glory in Your praise.”*

*Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
From everlasting even to everlasting.*

Then all the people said, "Amen," and praised the LORD.

Song of Praise – Give Thanks

Confession of Sin & Prayer – Psalm 100:4; Matthew 5:1-12

Psalm 100, Verse 4 commands us to give thanks to Him & praise His holy name. The Hebrew command "give thanks" is a single verb that means "to confess, praise, acknowledge, extol, or thank." We, as Christians, should be the most grateful people alive. However, all too often we sin and break communion with our holy God by failing to give Him the praise and thankfulness he is so deserving of. We seem to forget that the mildest of sins stands out like a crimson stain when compared to the perfection of God.

Hear the words of this prayer of confession:

Blessed Jesus, you offered us all your blessings when you announced:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

but we have been rich in pride.

Blessed are those who mourn

but we have not known much sorrow for our sin.

Blessed are the meek

but we are a stiff-necked people.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

but we are filled to the full with other things.

Blessed are the merciful

but we are harsh and impatient.

Blessed are the pure in heart

but we have impure hearts.

Blessed are the peacemakers

but we have not sought reconciliation.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness

but our lives do not challenge the world.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me

but we have hardly made it known that we are yours.

Your Law is holy and your benedictions are perfect,
but they are both too great for us. You alone are blessed.

We plead with you to forgive our sins and give us the blessing of your righteousness.

O King and Father, your Son died and was raised up in power.

Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance so we may rise to
new life in Him. Let's pray.

Assurance of Salvation – Psalm 32:3-5

If your faith is in Jesus Christ this morning, then I can assure you, based on the sure promise of the Word, that your sins are forgiven. Hear these words of assurance found in Psalm 32: 3-5

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Songs of Praise – O Wondrous Love/The Love Of God

Offering - *"Obedience to the call of Christ nearly always costs everything to two people – the one who is called, and the one who loves that one."* Oswald Chambers

Look to Jesus – Hebrews 12:2 (Source: Charles Spurgeon)

"Looking unto Jesus." –Hebrews 12:2

"It is ever the Holy Spirit's work to turn our eyes away from self to Jesus; but Satan's work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ.

He insinuates, 'Your sins are too great for pardon; you have no faith; you do not repent enough; you will never be able to continue to the end; you have not the joy of His children; you have such a wavering hold of Jesus.'

All these are thoughts about self, and we shall never find comfort or assurance by looking within. But the Holy Spirit turns our eyes entirely away from self: He tells us that we are nothing, but that 'Christ is all in all.'

Remember, therefore, it is not *your hold* of Christ that saves you—it is Christ; it is not *your joy* in Christ that saves you—it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument—it is Christ's blood and merits.

Therefore, look not so much to your hand with which you are grasping Christ, as to Christ; look not to your hope, but to Jesus, the source of your hope; look not to your faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith.

We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by 'looking unto Jesus.'

Keep your eye simply on Him; let His death, His sufferings, His merits, His glories, His intercession, be fresh upon thy mind; when you wake in the morning look to Him; when you lie down at night look to Him.

Let not your hopes or fears come between you and Jesus; follow hard after Him, and He will never fail thee.

Songs of Worship – *The Solid Rock/In Christ Alone*

Message – *“What Do You Think About the Christ”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 22:41-46

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

Benediction