

Divine Worship

Isaiah 53.10-12 "The Pleasure of the Lord"

Preparation

I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;
My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.
I have set the LORD always before me;
Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will rest in hope.
For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Silent Meditation

Psalm 16.7-10

Call to Worship

Psalm 16.5, 2, 7 (paraphrased)

Leader:

The LORD is the portion of our inheritance, and our cup;
The LORD maintains our lot.

People:

My soul says to the LORD,
"You are my LORD!"

All:

I will bless the LORD, Who gives me counsel!

Hymn of Praise

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" vv. 1-3 Charles Wesley

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

Lord Jesus, raised from the dead, seated at the right hand of God, and coming soon to gather us to Yourself, we rejoice to be together here in Your Presence, to see Your beauty, rest in Your strength, and give You the praise and honor which are Your due!

Now, O Lord, in the silence, search our hearts, and lead us to confess our sins and repent of them by Your grace:

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Leader:

Only because You died on the cross, and only because You rose again from the dead, can we have any hope of forgiveness and everlasting life. We rejoice in Your forgiveness, Lord, and **we sing to Your praise** ("Christ the Lord is Risen Today," v. 6):

King of glory, Soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, Thy pow'r to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

Prayers of Thanksgiving

All

All may offer thanksgiving for the many blessings of the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in **praying the Lord's Prayer**.

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Psalm 121.1-8

(Duke Street: *Jesus Shall Reign*)

I lift up my eyes up to the heights: whence comes my help by day, by night?
My help comes from the Lord above! He made creation by His love!

God will not let our footsteps fall; He will preserve us all in all.
He does not slumber, does not sleep; God will His chosen people keep.

You are our Keeper and our Shade; You have our debt of sin repaid!
You will preserve us by Your might; naught shall afflict us day or night.

Lord, You will guard our lives from ill; You will our trembling souls keep still.
All our endeavors You will guard; Eternal praise be Yours, O Lord!

Offerings to the Lord

Here, all may bring an offering of praise and honor to the Lord: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the Leader shall pray:

Receive these our offerings, O Lord, and be glorified among us, as we rejoice together in Your goodness and love. We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together **(all together, saying the Apostles' Creed)**;

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Doxology

All

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures, here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

The Ministry of the Word

Isaiah 53.10-12

The Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it.

Leader:

We typically think of Isaiah 53 as prophesying the death of Jesus for our sins. And so it does, in verses

1-9. But verses 10-12 look to what follows His death – His glorious resurrection from the dead! It pleased God to “put *Him* to grief” and to “make *His* soul an offering for sin.” But the story, as we know, doesn’t end there. Let’s read again Isaiah 53.10, especially paying attention to the part from “He shall see *His* seed...” to the end (someone shall read).

1. How does it appear from these verses that the death of Christ is not the end?

The resurrection of Jesus is clearly in view here, and God is making certain promises to Him, about seeing offspring and prolonging His days. He also says that the “pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand” (v. 10). We can assume that the pleasure of the Lord is what the Lord promised His people in the covenant He made with Abram. Let’s review those promises in Genesis 12.1-3 (someone read).

2. How would you summarize the Lord’s pleasure, based on these promises?

3. How does Jesus, in His resurrection, fulfill those promises? Read 2 Corinthians 1.20.

Realizing the pleasure of the Lord and the fullness of His covenant promises requires additional “labor” (Is. 53.11) beyond that which Jesus has already done, including what is mentioned in the rest of verse 11.

4. How is Jesus laboring now? How do we benefit from that labor? Do we have a role in that labor (cf. Jn. 14.12)?

Let’s read verse 12 again. God promises to reward His Servant with a “portion” and with “spoil”. That spoil, as Jesus explained, comes from His plundering of the kingdom of Satan (cf. Matt. 12.22-30). We have the privilege of being with Jesus in this great work, so it is important we understand what that work requires. Basically, our work of plundering involves living for Jesus, Who lives in us, walking the paths of obedience in every area of our lives, and being His witnesses. He promises to help us in this, so let us take up our “labor” and gain the “portion” and “spoil” which the Lord has for us in Christ Jesus.

Meditate in silence on the teaching of Isaiah 53.10-12.

All (sharing):

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation.

Hymn of Commitment

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”, vv. 4, 5

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Foll’wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!

Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

Benediction

Leader

Work awaits us as we go forth in the risen Christ to plunder the devil and gather great spoil for the Lord. The Lord be with you.

All:

And with you also. Amen.

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