

Divine Worship

Ephesians 1.15-23
“The View from Here (1)”

Preparation: Philippians 2.9-11

Silent Meditation

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Call to Worship

John 1.37-39 (adapted)

Leader:

The disciples heard Jesus speak, and they followed Him. Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?”

All:

“Rabbi, where are You staying?”

Leader:

Jesus says to us all, “Come and see.”

Hymn of Praise

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Theodulph of Orleans

(Refrain)

All glory, laud, and honor, to Thee, Redeemer, King,
to Whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David’s royal Son,
Who in the Lord’s name comest, the King and Blessed One.

(Refrain)

2. The company of angels are praising Thee on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.

(Refrain)

3. The people of the Hebrews with psalms before Thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthems before Thee we present.

(Refrain)

4. To Thee, before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

(Refrain)

5. Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King.

(Refrain)

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

Bring us into Your Presence, Lord Jesus, into the very throne room of glory, that we may see You high and lifted up, glorious in all Your array, ruling over saints and angels, and receiving all their praise; and be pleased, O Lord, to receive our worship, and to renew us in You, for Your praise and for Your glory, now and forevermore. We come to You, Lord, in faith and obedience, but also, in need of cleansing and renewal. Search our hearts, Lord, that we may with clear eyes and clean spirits worship together.. **Hear our silent confessions of sin, O Lord.**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

John 1.49, 51 (adapted)

Leader:

O Lord, we declare and profess that You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel! And we rejoice to be in Your Presence, and to hear the promise of Your Word:

People:

“I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

All:

Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Assurance

Blessed Assurance 1

Fanny Cosby

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Psalm 92.1-8

Leader:

*It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;*

All:

To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,
And Your faithfulness every night,
With harmonious sound...
For You, LORD, have made me glad through Your work;
I will triumph in the works of Your hands.
O LORD, how great are Your works!
Your thoughts are very deep.
A senseless man does not know,
Nor does a fool understand this.
When the wicked spring up like grass,
And when all the workers of iniquity flourish,

It is that they may be destroyed forever.
But You, LORD, are on high forevermore.

All may offer prayers of praise and thanks to the Lord. At the end of these prayers, the Leader shall **lead the people in praying the Lord's Prayer.**

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: 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 as many as like have shared, the **Leader shall pray:**

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer ourselves to you in 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!

Prayers of the People

Leader:

Let us bring our prayers and supplications to the Lord.

All may offer prayers of intercession or supplication, seeking mercy and grace to help in our time of need. **At the end, let the Leader and people pray Psalm 92.12-15, as indicated:**

Leader:

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

All:

They shall still bear fruit in old age;
They shall be fresh and flourishing,
To declare that the Lord is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

The Ministry of the Word

Ephesians 1.15-23

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

Today we begin a journey and tour of the City to Come, that land of glory and grace and worship where Jesus rules at the right hand of God. Paul commands us to set our minds on that glorious realm (Colossians 3.1-3) and teaches that we have been seated there, with Jesus, at the Father's right hand (Ephesians 2.6).

Which is to say that, as believers in Jesus and those who have been cleansed by His blood and born-again into His Kingdom, we have a vantage point on life and the world which is unique to us, and which brings us into a way of life characterized by understanding, wisdom, righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

But we must learn to dwell in the City, with Jesus in glory, and we must follow God's Word in learning how to do this.

1. What do you think of when you read that we have been seated with Christ in heavenly places?
2. Why does our being seated there provide a unique perspective on life and the world?

In our text for today, Paul prays that we might be able to see clearly into this glorious place, and that we may engage the "eyes of our heart" to see Jesus in His mighty power, and to know and experience the hope that we have in Him (vv. 18-20). In the Scriptures, the "heart" represents many things. Most importantly, it stands for that which we desire, earnestly long for, and love. The heart affects the mind – how we think and plan – and the conscience – the choices we make and the priorities we maintain.

3. Why would it be important to use the "eyes of the heart" to see into the realm where Jesus rules at God's right hand? Why not just the mind or imagination alone?

We look with love and longing and desire to see Jesus where He is now, and where we are seated with Him. This is the vantage point from which we must live our daily lives, so that the Kingdom of God will come on earth as it is in heaven.

As we begin to explore this vantage over the next several weeks, let's focus on what we expect to gain:

- A clear and more compelling understanding of "the hope of His calling". God calls us forward in the life of faith by a blessed and glorious hope, and we're going to learn more about what that hope is, and what it entails.

- What are “the riches of His inheritance in the saints”? God has laid up treasure in heaven for us, and this treasure is more precious and potent than any other. We’re going to see why that is so, and how living from the heavenly vantage point helps us to realize those riches increasingly.
- A more consistent experience of “the exceeding greatness of His power”, the power of the indwelling Christ to make all things new in our lives.

We will study this vast, unseen, but – to us who believe – gloriously accessible domain, so that we might know our hope, partake of the riches of Jesus in His glory, and increase in the experience of His power with greater consistency, eagerness, and joy.

Let’s sing together our Hymn of Commitment.

Hymn of Commitment

Psalm 92

(Sweet Hour: [*Sweet Hour of Prayer*](#))

How good it is to thank the Lord and praise to God Most High accord;
By day to let His kindness ring, His faithfulness by night to sing.
With ten-stringed lute, resounding lyre, and sweetest harp we’ll lift You higher.
For You have made our souls rejoice; we sing Your praise with blended voice!

How sweet Your works, Your thoughts how deep: The fool cannot such knowledge keep.
Like grass the wicked rise each day; in judgment they are swept away.
But You, O Lord, abide on high; Your enemies shall fall and die.
All those who sin shall scattered be, but, Lord, You have exalted me!

My eye my vanquished foe shall see; my ears hear those who threaten me.
Yet in God’s house, where he belongs, the righteous like a tree grows strong.
Then let us green and fruitful be and flourish like a mighty tree,
To tell God’s righteousness abroad: He is our Rock, our sovereign God!

Benediction

Psalm 92.14, 15 (adapted)

Leader:

Flourish in the Lord! Bear fruit for His glory, and declare that the Lord is upright!

All:

He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him!

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