

Divine Worship

Ephesians 4.7-10

“Filling All Things: The View from Here (7)”

Preparation: Ephesians 4.4.-6

Silent Meditation

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Call to Worship

Psalm 85.8, 9 (adapted)

Leader:

Let us hear what God the LORD will speak,
For He will speak peace
To His people and to His saints;
But let them not turn back to folly.

All:

Surely His salvation *is* near to those who fear Him,
That glory may dwell in our land.

Hymn of Praise

Psalm 85.1-9

(Lyons: [*O Worship the King*](#))

O Lord, You Your favor showed to Your land;
Your people You saved by Your mighty hand.
Their sins You forgave, all Your wrath You withdrew;
You turned back the anger which to them was due.

Restore us, O God, renew us in peace,
And cause all Your wrath against us to cease.
Will You evermore all Your wrath to us show?
Revive us that we may Your joy again know.

Lord, show us Your love; restore us, we pray!
And help us to hear the words that You say.
Speak peace to Your people; in truth let us stand.
We fear You; let glory and grace fill our land.

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

Lord Jesus, we come to You to hear from You how we must serve You faithfully. Give us a fuller measure of Your Spirit, Lord, that we may worship You truly; and that through You, our worship may reach to the Father in heaven, Whom with You and the Spirit, we love, honor, adore, and serve. Now as we come to You, Lord, we pause to listen for the conviction of Your Spirit, and to confess our sins and repent. **Hear our silent confessions, O Lord.**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Psalm 85.3-5 (adapted)

Leader:

We thank You, Lord Jesus, that You have turned away the Father's wrath against us, that the fierceness of His anger no longer abides upon us, and that even now You are working to restore us to all the righteousness, peace, and joy that is ours to know in Your Kingdom. Thank You that, because we have been seated with You at the right hand of the Father, we can see ourselves as You do, and rest in Your grace and truth for all our needs. We praise and thank You, and pray in Your Name, Amen.

All:

Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Assurance

Psalm 85.10-13

(Lyons: *O Worship the King*)

In Jesus God's grace and truth are combined;
both goodness and peace in Him do we find.
Truth springs from the earth as He walks in our midst,
and righteousness flows from the heav'ns as a gift.

The Lord by His grace will give what is good;
Our land will produce abundance of food.
And righteousness will go before the Lord's face,
And make of His footsteps a way in this place.

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

All

Leader:

Lord, as we come to You now, cleansed and restored, we ask you to receive these offerings of praise and thanks that we bring out of love for You:

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 Psalm 96.1-6:**

All:

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!
Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples.
For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised;
He *is* to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
But the LORD made the heavens.
Honor and majesty *are* before Him;
Strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary.

Leader:

O receive our worship, Father, for we come to You in the power of Your Spirit and the Name of Your Son, our Savior and Lord, even Jesus Christ, Who is filling all things in all things.

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 the Lord's Prayer.**

The Ministry of the Word

Ephesians 4.7-10

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

Paul's first prayer for the Ephesians, in Ephesians 1.15-23, was filled with powerful requests, designed to help us live from "beyond the veil" where Christ rules, into the world of our Personal Mission Field, which He intends to fill with Himself. We recall that Paul prayed:

- That the eyes of our heart might be opened, to see Jesus exalted in glory
- That we might know the hope of His glory, to experience His glory and express it daily
- That we might know the hope of His Kingdom – righteousness, peace, and joy in the Spirit
- That we might lay hold on the Lord Himself, our great Inheritance of faith
- That we might realize more of the power of Christ and His salvation
- That in His power and salvation, He might fill all things through us, making us an aroma of Jesus

Paul offered a second prayer for the Ephesians in Ephesians 3.14-21. Let's read that (have someone read these verses). Notice what Paul prays here, and think of this as added to his first prayer:

- That we might be strengthened with might from within (v. 16)
- That we may know Jesus living vibrantly within us (v. 17)
- That we may abound in love (v. 18)
- That we may be filled with all the fullness of God (v. 19)
- That God may do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think in and through us (v. 20)
- That He will receive glory through us and through His Church (v. 21)

1. Let's think out loud a bit about this prayer. How does it add to your understanding of what you are and have in Jesus Christ?
2. How does this prayer, together with Paul's first prayer, teach us to think about our everyday lives as followers of Jesus?

Now let's do a little sanctified imagining. Imagine yourself, seated with Jesus at the right hand of God, looking down on your life in the week to come in the light of these two prayers of Paul. Take a few moments and pray through each of these prayers, thinking as you do about the activities that lie ahead this week, the people you will meet, and the opportunities you will have to let Jesus fill your world through you. **All will take a few moments to meditate, after which the Leader will ask:**

3. What did you see?
4. How can praying prayers like this help us to be more consistently filled with Jesus, so that He fills our world through us?

We come at last to our text for today. It tells us three things:

- Having completed His saving work, Jesus ascended into glory, where He is seated at the Father's right hand.
- From His throne, Jesus has given us gifts, beginning with His Word and Spirit, but including all the daily physical and spiritual blessings He pours out on us daily.
- His purpose in doing this is "that He might fill all things."

Let's conclude our time in the Word by asking the Lord, in specific ways, to activate His gifts and use us to fill our world increasingly with Himself in the week to come. **All may pray for the Lord's filling, and to be used of Him in filling their world in the week to come.**

At the end, the Leader shall lead into the Hymn of Commitment.

Hymn of Commitment

(Mit Freuden Zart: [*All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*](#))

Sing to the Lord! O, bless His Name!

All nations tell His glory!

Psalm 96.1-4, 11-13

Divine Worship: Ephesians 4.7-10

Salvation's tidings loud proclaim;
let earth rehearse His story!
For God is greatly to be praised;
His throne above all gods is raised –
fear Him, and sing His glory!

Let heaven sing with lusty voice;
let earth and sea sing sweetly!
Let fields and trees in Him rejoice,
for He is coming swiftly
to judge the world in righteousness,
the peoples in His faithfulness –
He comes; exalt Him greatly!

Benediction

Leader:

Let us go forth in joy and power to say among the people of our world,

All:

The Lord reigns!

Amen!

Psalm 96.10 (adapted)

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