

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

Opening Scripture

Psalm 149: 1-9

Rowland New

- ¹ Praise the LORD.^[a] Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.
- ² Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.
- ³ Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.
- ⁴ For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.
- ⁵ Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.
- ⁶ May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands,
- ⁷ to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,
- ⁸ to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron,
- ⁹ to carry out the sentence written against them — this is the glory of all his faithful people. Praise the LORD.

Opening Hymn 62

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

V 1-5

- 1.) All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam, O Sister moon with silver gleam!

Refrain:

O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

- 2.) O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain, by which all creatures ye sustain,
O praise ye! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

Refrain:

- 3.) O sister water, flowing clear, make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Oh brother fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight, O praise ye!

Refrain:

- 4.) Dear mother earth, who day by day unfoldest blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let them God's glory also show.

Refrain:

- 5.) All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O praise ye! Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on Him cast your care!

Refrain:

Welcome

Pastor Scott Clawson

Prayer for Reflection

Rowland New

Let there be praise and joy in our hearts, O God. We have many suggestions about how things could be different and better. It could be cooler; there could be more rain; we could be less busy; we could have more vacation; we could have fewer bills to pay. The unfortunate we smart over, the good we take for granted. Forgive us when we fret so much about the way things aren't that we forget to be thankful for remarkable blessings which are ours in the way things are.

In these moments we will remember enough to let there be praise and joy in our hearts. Call to our mind the joy of a good stretch when we've slept soundly; the exhilaration of a day when we don't have to follow a regular routine; the grace of a drink of cold water going down on a hot day. Review for us the pleasure in the song of the thrush; the sight of the hovering hummingbird's miraculous flight; the nervous chittering of the squirrels. Call to our mind the good feeling when we are comfortable with a loved one; the excitement when we look forward to being with friends or family; the wonder of mutual love creating a new baby; the richness of watching children grow and mature; the full heart experienced when a child says "I love you grandpa." The list is longer than we can finish. We have enough and more for there to be joy and praise in our hearts. Let it be, dear Lord.

We do not desire to gloss over the pain and hurt which is a part of life. We know persons who are bowed down with heavy responsibilities; persons who are trying to gather the pieces of broken relationships; persons who wonder what it would be like to feel healthy again; persons who both accept and struggle against physical limitations. By your Spirit, Lord, when any of us are confused or in pain, we are able to live in strength and courage if, in faith, we remember to ask for help. Let it be so for all who need you. Let some sense of blessing touch each one who joins in this prayer. And in return, you shall hear in our hearts a song of praise and joy. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

(Earle W. Fike, Jr., Please Pray with Me: Prayers for People at Worship, Brethren Press, 1990, #33.)

Hymnal 123

"El Shaddai" X2

El shaddai, el shaddai, El-elyon na adonai, age to age You're still the same, by the power of the name.

El shaddai, el shaddai, Erkamka na adonai, we will praise and lift You high, El shaddai.

Prayers of the People

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 12: 1-14

Pastor Scott Clawson

The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb^[a] for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

14 “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

Sermon

“Sermon on the Moon”

Pastor Scott Clawson

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so,

With your people on earth

And all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And so,

in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Partaking of Communion

Closing Hymn 617

“I Come with Joy”

1.) I come with joy, to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free, in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me. (His life laid down for me.)

2.) I come with Christians far and near to find, all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread. (in Christ’s communion bread.)

3.) As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends. (and strangers now are friends.)

4.) And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near, is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here. (we see and praise him here.)

5.) Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways, and as his people I the world, we'll live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise. (we'll live and speak his praise.)

Benediction

Pastor Scott Clawson

Daily Devotions:

Monday, 9/07- Exodus 14:19-31

The escaping Israelites found themselves in a tight spot, The Red Sea was before them; Pharaoh and his soldiers behind them; but they forgot God who was with them. Read Psalm 37:39, 40. Share a time in your life when you took your eyes off of what lay ahead of you and what was behind you and you focused all of your attention on the Lord and took refuge in the Lord.

Tuesday, 9/08- Psalm 114: 1-8

The Lord separated Israel from Egypt, and the Lord also separated Israel unto the Lord's self. What has the Lord separated you from? How is your life better because the Lord separated you unto the Lord's self?

Wednesday, 9/09- Genesis 50:15-21

Why doesn't Joseph use this as an opportunity for revenge? How does God's sovereignty free us from needing to seek revenge? (Read Romans 12: 14-21 to help form your thoughts on this).

Thursday, 9/10- Psalm 103:1-13

Read verses 3-5 again. What is the Lord's "benefits" that are listed? Can you find any progression here? Why do you think God mentions forgiveness first? What benefits have you received from the Lord? Why is it important to "forget not" all his benefits?

Friday, 9/11- Romans 14:1-12

These verses are about how to make decisions for ourselves and how to deal with other Christians. Not all Christians are at the same stage of spiritual maturity. In some areas, we may be the stronger disciple while in other ways we may be the weaker Christian. How do these instructions usher in grace? Do you need to have grace with some fellow believers today?

Saturday, 9/12- Matthew 18:21-35

What are your different feelings about the different characters in the parable? (e.g., do you feel compassion or pity, anger, fear, joy...) Why? Which character do you feel closest or most similar to? Why? Which character do you feel more distant from? How does this influence the way you understand the parable?

Sunday, 9/13- Worship in person or online.