

WORSHIP FOCUS

I am the way, the truth, and the life. Christ's message is so exclusive that it rejects all others. There is only one way to the Father, and that way is a person. He does not say, 'I show you the way,' like a second Moses, but I am the way. Nor 'I have the truth,' like another Elijah, but I am the truth. Not only 'I lead unto life,' as one of his apostles, but I am the life. (Kögel) The exclusivity of salvation resting in the person of Jesus Christ is a rock against which the unbelieving world crushes itself, but upon which God builds his Church.

Personal Prayers for worship can be found on p. 10, 11 and p. 134-139 in the front of the hymnal.

Opening Hymn – 147*Like the Golden Sun Ascending*

**Like the golden sun ascending,
Breaking through the gloom of night,
On the earth its glory spending
So that darkness takes to flight,
Thus my Jesus from the grave
And death's dismal, dreadful cave
Rose triumphant Easter morning
At the early purple dawning.**

**Thanks to you, O Christ victorious!
Thanks to you, O Lord of life!
Death has now no power o'er us,
You have conquered in the strife.
Thanks because you did arise
And have opened paradise!
None can fully sing the glory
Of the resurrection story.**

**You have died for my transgression;
All my sins on you were laid.
You have won for me salvation;
On the cross my debt was paid.
From the grave I shall arise
And shall meet you in the skies.
Death itself is transitory;
I shall lift my head in glory.**

Grant me grace, O blessed Savior,
 And your Holy Spirit send
 That my life and my behavior
 May be pleasing to the end,
 That I may not fall again
 Into death's grim pit and pain,
 Whence by grace you have retrieved me
 And from which you have relieved me.

For the joy your advent gave me,
 For your gospel's great reward,
 For your baptism which has saved me,
 For your supper and your Word,
 For your death, the bitter scorn,
 For your resurrection morn:
 Lord, I thank you and extol you,
 And in heav'n I shall behold you.

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
 C: Amen.

Confession of Sins

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all

your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - mighty God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us.

The musical score is written on ten staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is in common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and rests. There are double bar lines indicating the end of phrases. The final staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -
 ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray . . .

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken together*)

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (*Cong. Sings*) AMEN.

First Lesson

Acts 17: 1-12

¹When Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ²As was his custom, Paul went to the Jews, and on three Sabbath days he led them in a discussion from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He also said, "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." ⁴Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great number of God-fearing Greeks and more than a few of the prominent women.

⁵But the Jews became jealous and gathered from the marketplace some wicked men, who formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house and searched for Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the mob. ⁶When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men, who have stirred up trouble all over the world, have come here too, ⁷and Jason has welcomed them as guests! They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, Jesus!" ⁸The crowd and the city officials were stirred up when they heard these things. ⁹They took a security bond from Jason and the others and then let them go.

¹⁰That same night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so.

¹²Many of them believed, along with more than a few prominent Greek women and men.

Psalm 33

p. 79

Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:4-10

⁴As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual

house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

⁷Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,
⁸and, a stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (John 14:6)

(Cong. Sings) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel

John 14:1-12



¹"Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

²In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. ⁴You know where I am going, and you know the way."

⁵"Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. ⁷If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸"Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that is enough for us."

⁹"Have I been with you so long," Jesus answered, "and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.

¹²“Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.



Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Hymn of the Day – 529

Built on the Rock

**Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.**

**Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.**

We are God's house of living stones,
 Built for his own habitation.
 He through baptismal grace us owns
 Heirs of his wondrous salvation.
 Were we but two his name to tell,
 Yet he would deign with us to dwell
 With all his grace and his favor.

Here stands the font before our eyes,
 Telling how God did receive us.
 Th' altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
 And what the sacrament gives us.
 Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
 Christ yesterday, today, the same,
 And evermore, our Redeemer.

Grant then, O God, your will be done,
 That, when the church bells are ringing,
 Many in saving faith may come
 Where Christ his message is bringing:
 "I know my own; my own know me.
 You, not the world, my face shall see.
 My peace I leave with you always."

Sermon

1 Peter 2:4-10

~~What's in My Future?~~

C Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me.

Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or

take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Cong. (sings): Amen. Amen. Amen.

You Are the Way; through You Alone

**You are the way; through you alone
Can we the Father find;
In you, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart and will and mind.**

**You are the truth; your Word alone
True wisdom can impart.
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.**

**You are the life; the empty tomb
Proclaims your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in you
Not death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win
Whose joys eternal flow.**



Serving Us Today:

Preacher: Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel

Organist: Dee Ann Techlin

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Please leave the worship guide in the back of church for use in our other services. Thank you.