

POTTSVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE LORD'S DAY
APRIL 14, AD 2019

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!”
Psalm 100:4

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For Reflection

40. Why was it necessary for Christ to suffer death?

Because, by reason of the justice and truth of God, satisfaction for our sins could be made no otherwise than by the death of the Son of God.

41. Why was He buried?

To show thereby that He was really dead.

42. Since then Christ died for us, why must we also die?

Our death is not a satisfaction for our sin, but only a dying to sins and entering into eternal life.

43. What further benefit do we receive from the sacrifice and death of Christ on the cross?

That by His power our old man is with Him crucified, slain and buried; that so the evil lusts of the flesh may no more reign in us, but that we may offer ourselves unto Him a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 40-43

A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- We believe that Christian Worship is a renewal of covenant vows between Christians and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- a gracious and thankful conversation between God and His people. Consequently, our worship contains lots of congregational participation. Your part is in bold, but don't worry if you get a little lost. Just keep your bulletin handy throughout the service.
- We are a family of families worshipping together. We are teaching our children to worship as they worship with us. If they cry or squirm, it's OK; God has ordained "praise" from our children and infants.
- Restrooms are located both in this building and in the Fellowship Hall.

Welcome and Preparation

Silent Prayer of Preparation: Gracious and merciful Father, quiet our hearts, our hands, our minds and our souls as we draw near to You. Give rest where there is weariness, peace where there is conflict, and assurance where there is anxiety. Grant us faith to believe that you speak, ears to hear what you say and a will to live as you desire. Prepare us now to delight in you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In Christ's name, Amen.

Preparation:
In worship, God speaks. He is not merely spoken about. Listening and responding require our preparation. Take a moment to be still and know that He is God.

God Calls Us to Worship

Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Call to Worship:
We need to be called to come and worship because we are prone to think we are at the center of all things. Or perhaps we struggle to believe that God wants us to draw near. So God takes the initiative and calls us to come and worship Christ who is the center.

We Respond to God's Call

Revelation 5:12, 9-10, 13

Pastor: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power... and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

People: Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,

Pastor: For you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

People: And you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth..

Pastor: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

People: Be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

Prayer of Adoration

Worship through singing.
Worship is a gracious conversation between God and His people. He speaks grace through His Word and we respond together in gratitude through prayer and praise as a congregation. Singing is an important way we express our love for God and remind ourselves of our place in His redemptive story.

Man of Sorrows

Words: Phillip Bliss, Music: Phillip Bliss, Public Domain, CCL# 11359088

1 Man of Sorrows! what a name
for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

2 Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood,
sealed my pardon with his blood:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

3 Guilty, vile, and helpless, we;
spotless Lamb of God was he;
full atonement! can it be?
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

4 Lifted up was he to die,
"It is finished!" was his cry:
now in heav'n exalted high:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

5 When he comes, our glorious King,
all his ransomed home to bring,
then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Call to Confession

Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Confession of Sin. God calls us to draw near, but our sin is a barrier we cannot cross on our own. The good news is that God has provided a way of reconciliation through Jesus. Confession of sin both acknowledges our need for God's mercy and celebrates its abundance

Confession of Sin

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions. Wash away all our iniquities and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and grant us willing spirits, to sustain us.

Assurance of Pardon: God declares in the gospel that everyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ is forgiven and made clean.

Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.... For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Confession of Faith

Apostle's 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 hell¹; 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 quick² and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic³ Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Confession of Faith.: Creeds, confessions and catechisms are summaries of what we believe the Bible teaches about the central truths of the Christian faith. We confess them together in worship as a way of professing our common faith.

¹ *That is, He remained under power of death until the third day.*

² *"quick" is an older way of saying, "living"*

³ *"catholic" means "universal".*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, It is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 16

Pastor: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

People: I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

Pastor: As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

People: The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;

Pastor: Their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

People: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

Pastor: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

People: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

Pastor: I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

People: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

Pastor: For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

People: You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Nothing But the Blood.

Word: Robert Lowry, Music: Robert Lowry, Public Domain, CCL# 11359088

1 What can wash away my sin?
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
what can make me whole again?
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

2 For my cleansing this I see —
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
for my pardon this my plea —
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

3 Nothing can for sin atone —
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
naught of good that I have done —
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

4 This is all my hope and peace —
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
this is all my righteousness —
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

5 Now by this I'll overcome —
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
now by this I'll reach my home —
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

Sermon: Some view the sermon as a way to get principles for right living. Others see it as an interesting or inspirational talk.

In reality, as we open the Scriptures we encounter Jesus Christ. Therefore, as you listen, pray to be open to his leading, exhortation, encouragement and healing.

Sermon Notes

Matthew 27:57-66, "Making Arrangements"

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

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. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever, Amen

Jesus Paid it All

Words: Elvina Hall, Music: John T. Grape, Public Domain. CCL# 11359088

1 I hear the Savior say,
"Your strength indeed is small,
child of weakness, watch and pray,
find in me your all in all."

Refrain:

Jesus paid it all,
all to him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain,
he washed it white as snow.

2 Lord, now indeed I find
your power, and yours alone,
can change the leper's spots,
and melt the heart of stone. [Refrain]

3 For nothing good have I
whereby thy grace to claim —
I'll wash my garments white
in the blood of Calv'ry's lamb. [Refrain]

4 And when, before the throne,
I stand in him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
my lips shall still repeat. [Refrain]

Offering: The offering is not about money. All that we are, have, and hope belong to God. While we take this time to receive tithes and offerings for the support of the gospel ministry, we also use this time to recognize God's authority over all our life and commit again to love Him with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength

Worship Through Giving

Silent Prayer of Commitment: Gracious God and Giver of every good and perfect gift, help me to recognize all that you have given and not complain about what you have withheld. Grant me wisdom to faithfully use Your gifts for Your glory and not misuse them for my own. By your Spirit help me now to offer my heart, my life, my all, sincerely and promptly with joy and thanksgiving and without anxiety, fear or grumbling. In Christ's Name, Amen.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Last Word: God always has the last word. A benediction is a "word of blessing." God sends us out, but not before He reminds us that wherever the coming week may take us, physically, emotionally or spiritually, He goes with us.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-25

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Response

from Psalm 72

Now blessed be the living God, The God of Israel
Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excels
Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excels.

And blessed be His glorious Name, To all eternity;
The whole earth let His glory fill, Amen: So let it be.
The whole earth let His glory fill. Amen: So let it be.

What Do You Believe?

An early Christian pastor once wrote, "in essential things, unity, in debated things, liberty, and in all things, charity." In regard to essential things we believe the basic tenets of the Christian faith as spelled out in the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. In regards to debated things we hold many distinctive beliefs which define us as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

- We are a Biblical Church that believes in the inerrant and sufficient Scriptures as our only rule of faith and practice, able to make us wise unto salvation and useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking, and training us as disciples.
- We are a Reformed Church which believes that grace flows necessarily out of God's sovereignty. Grace is the work of God alone. Man's free-will is a faculty God employs, but saving grace depends upon the work of the Spirit powerfully renewing man's will to accept God's gracious offer of salvation.
- We are an Evangelical Church which believes that we are called to "preach the gospel to every creature under heaven" (Mark 16:15) as Christ's ambassadors as though God were making His appeal through us to implore men to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). God's sovereign choice is one of the "secret things" which we cannot know. Therefore, we preach the gospel earnestly and urgently.
- We are a Presbyterian Church which believes that God has called men to be Elders to provide spiritual oversight, instruction, counsel and encouragement to the Church. The word Presbyterian comes from the ancient Greek word for 'elder.' Our church's elders exercise care for the families in our congregation under the authority of other elders from several neighboring states. This larger group of elders is called a Presbytery.
- We are a Connectional Church. We are under the authority of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod. Through these connections, we work with other churches in North America and across the world to spread the gospel to every creature under heaven.
- We are a Confessional Church. Our basic doctrines are expressed by the Westminster Confession of Faith and its Larger and Shorter Catechisms. This confession and its catechisms summarizes what we believe the Bible teaches in regard to key doctrines. We do not hold them to be inerrant or infallible, but we do believe that they accurately express the central truths of the Christian faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Men's Bible Study will meet this coming Wednesday, April 17, at 8:00 pm at Campus Perks on the U of O Campus in Clarksville.
- Did you know that you can now Give Online? To find out more go to <http://pottsvillearp.org/> and click on the "Giving Link."

CONTACT US

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