



*“growing a family
to reach a community”*

Loving God, loving one another, and embracing
our community and world with Jesus

Lord's Day Worship

August 16, 2020

Call to Worship

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Arise My Soul Arise

Hymn #305

Opening Prayer

Confessing Our Sins Together

1 Peter 2:9-12

...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Our Father, we confess how often we forget that you have saved us for a purpose. You have saved us by grace so that we might collectively proclaim your glory to the nations. You have called us to be your witnesses, in both word and deed, so that many others might be drawn to the light of Christ.

Forgive us the many times we have lived only for ourselves. Forgive us our inward and short-term focus. Renew us in the holy mission you have set us upon as your people. For we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Rejoicing in Our Forgiveness

Psalm 28:6-7

Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

How Wonderful the Father's Love

Song

Mighty Is the Power of the Cross

Song

Praying for Our Church and Our Community

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Ancient Words

Song

Hearing God's Word Together

The Gospel According to Acts

Acts 5. 26-42

On Trial ... Again

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord

Hymn #465

Benediction

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Scripture Reading

Acts 5. 26-42 (English Standard Version)

²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. ²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

The Gospel According to Acts
Acts 5. 26-42
On Trial ... Again

I. The Charges (v. 28)

- A. Disobeying the charge
- B. Filling Jerusalem
- C. Bringing guilt

*Pilate ... washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And **all** the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"*

Matthew 27. 24-25

II. The Defense (vs. 29-32)

- A. God _____ Jesus
- B. God _____ Jesus
- C. God _____ His Holy Spirit

III. The Appeal (vs. 33-39)

IV. The Reaction (vs. 40-42)

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Luke 6:22-23

Sermon Quotes and References:

The word of God is sufficient to do the work of God. Many of us believe this, but, if we're honest, there are days where it doesn't feel very true. Will the word of God win out? Is the word of God really strong enough to go to the ends of the earth? It can feel so muted, impotent, helpless, small, constrained, restricted, powerless.

But ... God is never muted, helpless, small, restricted, or powerless. He sees everything. He knows all things. He is at work in the world. And His Word will not be silenced.

Jesus does not promise us long life. He does not promise us riches and uninterrupted good health. He does not promise the triumph of Christian values in the marketplace of ideas. He does not promise a favorable response to the word of God. What Jesus **does** promise is that His Word will go to the ends of the earth and He will be with us to the very end of the age.

In the midst of all that is broken and sinful and tragic in this world, God wants us to have this sure hope: no man, woman or child, no government institution or law, no power, no prince, and no potentate can ever silence the word of God.

John Piper,
"The Unquenchable Power of God's Unleashed Word"

This Week:

Tuesday.....Women's *Ephesians* Bible Study, 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Wednesday.....Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Thursday.....*Revelation* Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Saturday.....Women's *Ephesians* Bible Study, 8:00 a.m. at the Pavilion

Announcements:

Discovering Providence 2-Part Lunch and Learn Classes, August 30 and September 13 at 12:30-2:30 p.m. If you are new to Providence or want to find out more about the church, please plan on attending this 2-part series. This is the first step if you are interested in membership, and you must attend both classes. (Note: you are under no obligation by taking the classes to become a member.) Please see Mike Boesch if you have any questions. There is a sign up in the foyer; please place your name and contact information on the sheet.