

Worship Service

BY ALLISON BURAS

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:7-10

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
**The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**
The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
**More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Chiming of the Hour

Silent Meditation

When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving (all these are attributes of God), to be generous, to love their fellow men, to regard this present age as nothing, we instill virtue in their souls, and reveal the image of God within them. This then is our task: to educate both our children and ourselves in godliness.

John Chrysostom (347-407)[†]

Introit Hymn

“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us” (vv. 1-2)

Savior, like a Shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine; do thou befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear, O hear us when we pray;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear O hear us when we pray.

Attributed to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847); Hymns for the Young (1836)
Tune: BRADBURY

The Witness of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the LORD your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children, may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The Witness of the Gospels: Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.

He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Word of the Lord for God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“God, You Give Each Generation”

God, you give each generation
words of wisdom, truth to tell.
And your call to every nation
is to teach our children well.
For each child is in your image,
moving toward maturity.
Through your word, we hear your message:
Teach your children! Guide and lead!

Christ, you taught us love of neighbor
when you welcomed people in;
and you told us: Children matter!
To neglect them is a sin.
May the children who are yearning
to be all that they can be
find in every school the caring
of the whole community.

Spirit, give to us a vision
of a world that's just and fair.
May our courage, strength, and wisdom
reach to children everywhere.
May enriching education
touch the lives of rich and poor;
may we build a strong foundation,
then watch all your children soar.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2009

Suggested Tunes: HYMN TO JOY or IN BABILONE
(pp. 53-55 of this volume)

Prayers of Confession

Lord, you are a loving teacher. You have instructed us through the Law and through the prophets, through your Word made flesh and through the teachings of the Apostles. Forgive us where we have been hard of heart and slow to yield to your teachings.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you are our faithful provider. Through your grace you have placed saints and teachers in our lives, who have faithfully modeled life in your Kingdom before our very eyes. Forgive us where we have failed to follow the example of their thoughts, words, and deeds.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you are our truthful guide. As members of your body you have called each of us to be a light to the world. Forgive us for when we have not shone forth the glory of your name.

Lord, have mercy.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ revealed his love to us in this,
that while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.

Hear, then Christ's word of grace to us:
Our sins are forgiven.

Children's Sermon and Blessing of the Teachers

The body of Christ, the Church, is like our bodies. How would you get along without a nose, without a foot, or without eyes? Each part of your body has a role to play and enriches your life. So it is with the Church. As you follow Christ, you will discover your gifts and vocational calling.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Today we are bestowing a blessing on the teachers in our congregation. (*Invite all teachers, in the church and in schools, to assemble before the congregation to receive a blessing from the children, who are invited to lay their hands upon the teachers.*) Let us pray:

Almighty God, who calls and equips us each to serve your church,
bless now these servants whom you have called to be teachers,
that by word and good example,
they may fulfill your purpose and glorify your name.

We ask you, Good Shepherd,
to lead them in all things,
even as they lead the flock you have entrusted to their care.

We ask these things in the name of your son Jesus Christ,
who taught us all to pray:

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Hymn

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray,
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

Take thou our hearts, O Christ – they are thine own;
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.

Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee – time, talents, all;
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

William H. Foulkes (1918)

Suggested Tunes: BREAD OF LIFE or ELLERS

Sermon

Offering

Passing the Peace of Christ

Benediction

May the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord.

NOTE

† John Chrysostom, *On Marriage and Family Life*, translated by Catherine P. Roth and David Anderson (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1986), 44.



ALLISON BURAS

is Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Live Oak Classical School in Waco, Texas.