

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 29, 2023

10 O'clock A.M.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFLECTION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 10:19-24

**Brothers, since we have confidence to enter
the holy place by the blood of Jesus**

By the new and living way that he opened for us,
Through the curtain, that is his flesh,

**And since we have a high priest over the house of God
Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,**

With our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience,
Our bodies washed with pure water.

**Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,
For He who promised is faithful.**

*HYMN OF ADORATION

#92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Q. 170. How do they that worthily participate in the Lord's Supper feed upon the body and blood of Christ?

A. The body and blood of Christ are not physically present in, with, or under the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper; and yet are spiritually present to the faith of the receiver, no less truly and really than the elements themselves are to their outward senses; so they that worthily participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, do feed upon the body and blood of Christ, not after a physical, but in a spiritual manner; yet truly and really, while by faith they receive and apply to themselves Christ crucified, and all the benefits of his death.

Q. 171. How do we prepare ourselves for the Lord's Supper?

A. Preparation for the Lord's supper involves careful examination of the condition of our life in Christ, and of our sins and failings. To know whether we truly know God, and believe in him, and have repented. We are to love God and our fellow believers. We should have a charitable attitude toward everyone, including forgiveness of those who have wronged us. We must also assess how much we desire Christ and whether we are living in newness of obedience. Finally, we must renew the practice of these graces in us by serious meditation and fervent prayer.

Q. 172. May one who doubts of his being in Christ nonetheless come to the Lord's Supper?

A. A true believer and member of the church may nonetheless have doubts and struggle with assurance of his salvation. The Lord's Supper is certainly for such weak and doubting Christians. So let him grieve over his unbelief, seek to resolve his doubts with the promises of God's Word, and come even with his weak faith to the Lord's Supper that he might be strengthened in the grace of God.

James 2: 18-26

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Preparation for the Lord’s Supper Larger Catechism Questions 155,168,170,171,172

Q. 155. How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners; of driving them out of themselves, and drawing them to Christ; of conforming them to his image, and subduing them to his will; of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions; of building them up in grace, and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.

Q. 168. What is the Lord’s Supper?

A. The Lord’s Supper is a Sacrament of the New Testament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to the appointment of Jesus Christ, his death is showed forth; and they that worthily participate feed upon his body and blood, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace; have their union and communion with him confirmed; testify and renew their thankfulness, and engagement to God, and their mutual love and fellowship with one another, as members of the same mystical body.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Calvin’s Catechism

John Calvin expounds The Apostles’ Creed in this Catechism. We will use this section on saving faith as our Confession of Faith today. His questions have been slightly altered for readability.

What happens when we truly put faith in Jesus Christ?

It justifies us before God and makes us obtain eternal life.

What do you mean by saying that a man is justified by faith?

That in believing the promises of the gospel and in receiving them in true commitment of heart, we enter into this righteousness.

How are our good works made acceptable to God?

It is by faith. That is to say, that a person is assured in his conscience that God will not examine him harshly but covering his defects and impurities by the purity of Jesus Christ, He will regard him as perfect.

But can we believe that we are justified, without doing good works?

That is impossible. For to believe in Jesus Christ is to receive Him as He has given Himself to us. He promises to deliver us from death and restore us to favor with God His Father, through the merit of Jesus’ righteousness. Moreover, the Father also regenerates us by His Spirit, that we may be enabled to live in holiness.

CONFESSION OF SIN

based on Ephesians 4,5

Heavenly Father, have mercy on us, for our sins are many, and we are in danger of grieving your Holy Spirit. No corrupting talk should come from our mouths, yet we discourage other believers with our words. We are prone to bitterness, wrath, and clamor. We even slander those we claim to love in Christ. By your grace enable us to forgive each other as you have forgiven us in Christ. Enable us to walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Romans 5:6-11

SCRIPTURE READING
Romans 4:1-5; 16-25 and James 2:18-26

God shows His love for us in that:

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us!

Since we have been justified by His blood

How much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God.

While we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son

How much more now will we be saved by His life.

We rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*HYMN OF DEVOTION

#461

*Not What My Hands Have Done
Ushers come forward at this time.*

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

*READING OF GOD'S WORD

Romans 4:1-5; 16-25; James 2:18-26
Pew Bible Pg,1119,1200

PASTORAL PRAYER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Justified

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

#528

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

*BENEDICTION

*GLORIA PATRI

#735

**Stand if you are able*

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness...

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.