

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 10, 2021

Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Gathering Song: "Great is the Lord" - Worship & Praise #53

*Great is the Lord, he is holy and just,
By his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true,
By his mercy he proves his love*

*Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice,
Now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!*

Welcome and Announcements

October's Mission: CHUM

Opening Song: "How Can I Be Free From Sin?" - Worship & Praise #65

Verse 1: *How can I be free from sin?
lead me to the cross of Jesus;
from the guilt, the pow'r, the pain,
lead me to the cross of Jesus.*

Verse 3: *How can I know peace within?
lead me to the cross of Jesus;
sing a song of joy again,
lead me to the cross of Jesus.*

Verse 5: *How can I live day by day?
lead me to the cross of Jesus;
following his narrow way,
lead me to the cross of Jesus.*

Verse 2: *There's no other way,
no price that I could pay,
simply to the cross I cling.
This is all I need,
this is all I plead,
that his blood was shed for me.*

Verse 4: *Flowing from above,
all forgiving love,
from the Father's heart to me.
What a gift of grace,
his own righteousness,
clothing me in purity.*

Song: "As the Deer" - Worship & Praise #9

*As the deer pants for water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield;
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*

Confession & Absolution From 1 John & Psalm 32

Pastor: God is light

Congregation: in him there is no darkness at all.

P: If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C: and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and prayer)

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord

C: And he forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 4:10-20,25-29 (NIV)

Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.” You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. Then the Lord spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets. And the Lord directed me at that time to teach you the decrees and laws you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

You saw no form of any kind the day the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below. And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the Lord your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. But as for you, the Lord took you and brought you out of the iron-smelting furnace, out of Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance, as you now are.

After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time—if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord your God and arousing his anger, I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the Lord will drive you. There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell. But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Epistle Lesson: Romans 10:9-15, Colossians 3:15-16, 4:5-6 (NIV)

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts... Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Gospel: John 13:34-35, Mark 9:38-41 (NIV)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

P: The word of God for the People of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message: “Searching for God”

Pastor Daren Blanck

Prayers & The 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; 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

Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will come again
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**

Closing Song: “The Summons” - Worship & Praise #137

V1: “Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?”
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

V2: “Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?”
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?”
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”

V3: “Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

Benediction

Sending Song: “Go in Peace and Serve” - Worship & Praise #46

Go in peace and serve the Lord. Go in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today. God is calling you today to bring truth and love to ev’ry nation
Go and tell gospel news ev’rywhere.

Sending

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia.

Have a Blessed Week!

**Website: www.zoarchurch.org • Email: zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com
Church Phone: 218-663-7925 • Pastor Daren’s Cell: 218-387-4688
Daren Blanck, Pastor • Music provided this morning by Dave Gustafson**