



CHRIST THE KING

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 16, 2020



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Shall we die for ourselves or die for others?

For most of us, the question is rarely posed in our final mortal moment (although there is glory when it is). Death is the finish line of this preliminary race. Shall we cross the finish line for ourselves or for others? The choice isn't waiting for us down the track. The choice is now.

Death is now. The choice is here.

Lay your life down. Your heartbeats cannot be hoarded. Your reservoir of breaths is draining away. You have hands, blister them while you can. You have bones, make them strain—they can carry nothing in the grave. You have lungs, let them spill with laughter. With an average life expectancy of 78.2 years in the US (subtracting eight hours a day for sleep), I have around 250,000 conscious hours remaining to me in which I could be smiling or scowling, rejoicing in my life, in this race, in this story, or moaning and complaining about my troubles. I can be giving my fingers, my back, my mind, my words, my breaths, to my wife and my children and my neighbors, or I can grasp after the vapor and the vanity for myself, dragging my feet, afraid to die and therefore afraid to live. And, like Adam, I will still die in the end. Living is the same thing as dying. Living well is the same thing as dying for others.

ND Wilson, *Death by Living*

Lord's Day Worship

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96:1-9

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

People: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among the peoples!

People: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

Leader: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens

People: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, Oh families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

*SONG

I WILL SING OF MY REDEEMER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HU5hhE9cN6A>

1.

I will sing of my Redeemer
and his wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross he suffered
from the curse to set me free.

Chorus

Sing O sing of my Redeemer,
with his blood he purchased me;
On the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt and made me free.

2.

I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save.
In his boundless love and mercy
he the ransom freely gave.

Chorus

3.

I will praise my dear Redeemer,
his triumphant power I'll tell;
How the victory he giveth
over sin and death and hell.

Chorus

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*PRAYER OF ADORATION (CONCLUDING WITH 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 34, 36

Q. What is Adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of, the sons of God.

Q. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Romans 7:18-19

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of Life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

PASTORAL PRAYER

- That God would make us people who lament injustice, who long for peace and flourishing, and who pursue shalom in our city and world.
- We pray for the homeless, marginalized, and vulnerable in our city and region, particularly as they weather the pandemic. Help us to find ways to love and care for these as the people of God.
- We pray for those who are alone during the pandemic, particularly children in dangerous home situations and residents of nursing facilities who cannot receive visitors.
- We pray for Wanda and the Williams family, as they mourn the passing of Horace. Grant them peace and comfort, and the grace to grieve well.
- We pray for Brad and Christy Keating as they care for Karis. Give doctors wisdom as they seek to find a combination of medicines that will ease her pain and minimize her seizures.
- We pray for Penny Embry in the loss of her mother. Grant her grace as she grieves.
- We pray for our church, that you will help us stay connected to and love one another as the pandemic stretches on.
- We pray for our sister churches in North Texas Presbytery, as they seek to minister the gospel faithfully in their contexts during this challenging time for ministry.

A SONG OF ASCENTS.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways!

² You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

⁴ Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the LORD.

⁵ The LORD bless you from Zion!
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life!

⁶ May you see your children's children!
Peace be upon Israel!

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Pastor Todd Gwennap

“Blessing”
Songs for the Road

*SONG

ON JORDAN’S STORMY BANKS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Qp53KHgy2k>

1.

On Jordan’s stormy banks I stand
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan’s fair and happy land
Where my possessions lie

2.

All o'er those wide extended plains
Shines one eternal day
There God the Son forever reigns
And scatters night away

Chorus

I am bound

I am bound

I am bound for the promised land (x2)

3.

No chilling wind nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death
Are felt and feared no more

Chorus

4.

When shall I reach that happy place
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face
And in His bosom rest?

Chorus

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*BENEDICTION

Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

DOXOLOGY/DISSMISSAL