

Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time

29 September 2019

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

Prelude, Announcements & Preparation

Sung Introit—Glory Be to God the Father, Vs I



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1868; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011. ©2011 Greyfriars Press

Call to Worship—Psalm 34:I-3, 8, II-I4

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

All: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Pastor: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

All: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Pastor: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

All: What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

Pastor: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Hymn of Praise—Thank and Praise Jehovah's Name



Hymn of Praise—There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1854; Music: HOLY MANNA, Attr. To William Moore, 1825.

New Testament Reading—I Corinthians 4:1-5

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Sung Response—Hear My Prayer (from Psalm 86)



Text & Music: Greyfriars Press, 2013. Used by permission.

Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Psalm 32:I-8

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing.

You call him blessed whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed also is the one whom You do not count their iniquities against them.

All: We desire to be those who have no deceit in their spirit.

Pastor: When we keep silent about confessing our sin, it is as if our bones are wasting away through misery.

All: In Your kindness, Your hand lies heavy upon us when we do not confess our sins and it wears us out.

Pastor: Lord, we long to acknowledge our sin to You and not cover our iniquity.

All: We will confess our transgressions to You, O Lord, and You forgive the iniquity of our sin.

Pastor: Therefore we offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; before the rush of great waters reaches us.

All: You are a hiding place for us; You preserve us from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Pastor: Instruct us and teach us in the way we should go.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—II Corinthians 5:17, 21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hymn of Promise—Jesus, Faithful Friend of Sinners



Text: Douglas Bond, 2014; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2014

The Reading of the Word—Genesis 42:I-38

When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" ²And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die." ³So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. ⁴But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him. ⁵Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

'Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. 'Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." 'And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.'And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land." 'They said to him, "No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food. "We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies."

¹²He said to them, "No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see." ¹³And they said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more." ¹⁴But Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you. You are spies. ¹⁵By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. ¹⁶Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." And he put them all together in custody for three days.

¹⁸On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: " if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, ²⁰ and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so. ²¹ Then they said to one another, "In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us." ²² And Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood." ²³ They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them. ²⁴ Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. ²⁵ And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

²⁶Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed. ²⁷And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack. ²⁸He said to his brothers, "My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!" At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"

When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, ""The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land. "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we have never been spies." We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.' "Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way. "Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land."

³⁵ As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid. ³⁶ And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me." ³⁷ Then Reuben said to his father, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you." ³⁸ But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol."

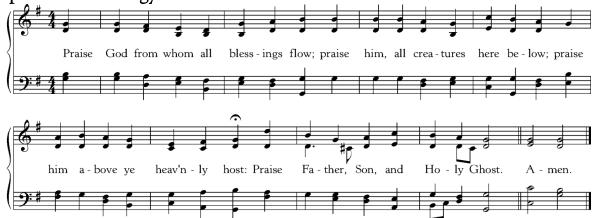
Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—New Beginnings: A Study of Genesis, Part 53

Reunited —Nate Shurden, Pastor

Sung Response—Doxology



Text: Thomas Ken, 1709; Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter, 1551.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

Sursum Corda

Elder: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

Elder: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Elder: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Elder: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You,

Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Sung Response—Sanctus

WOMEN

MEN



CCLI #11121087 Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: Franklin Sanctus, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Profession of Faith—The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.⁵

He also watches over me in such a way⁶

that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷ in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.⁸

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life' and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.¹⁰

I I Cor. 6:19-20 2 Rom. I4:7-9 3 I Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:I4 4 I Pet. I:18-19; I John I:7-9; 2:2 5 John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; I John 3:I-II 8 Rom. 8:

6 Jn 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5 9 Rom 8:15-16; 2 Cor 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph 1:13-14

Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

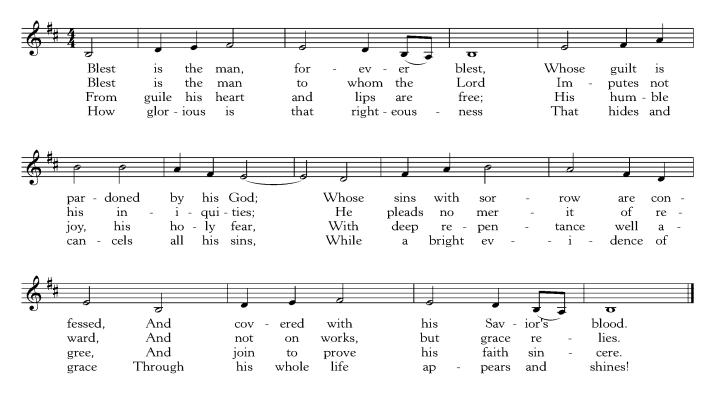
Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. You may take the bread at the first table and then proceed to either side for the wine/grape juice.

Communion Hymn—Psalm 32: Blest is The Man, Forever Blest



Text: Psalm 32, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: DISTRESS, William Walker, 1854; Arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2008. © 2008 Greyfriars Press, Used by Permission

Hymn of Communion—Deck Yourself My Soul With Gladness



Text: Johann Franck, 1649, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Cruger, 1598-1662.

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise—Jesus, I Come



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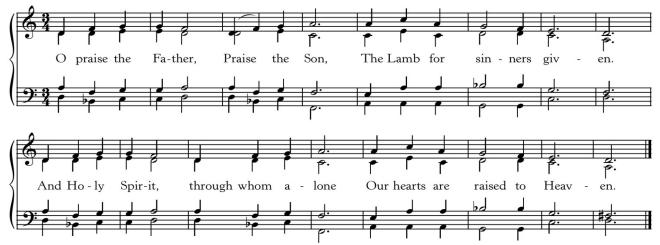
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—I Peter I:18-19

Know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. *Amen.*

Sung Response—O Praise the Father



Text: John Mason, 1683; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011.

Prayer Focus—Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Western Kentucky University (WKU) is on campus in Bowling Green, Kentucky and is led by campus minister Rev. Ross Lockwood who is in his 5th year at WKU. RUF is the college ministry agency of the Presbyterian Church in America, and the mission of RUF is "to reach students for Christ and equip them to serve Christ and his Church." RUF works towards this mission through weekly worship nights of singing and teaching, creating and leading small groups, one-on-one pastoral ministry and through hosting outreach and fellowship events. Ross has two interns, Cathy Clark and Thomas Fleming, who help him in the mission of reaching and equipping students. Ross is married to Anne Todd, and they have two boys, Bo (4 yrs.) and Ira (2 yrs.). Please pray for RUF at WKU in the following ways:

- Pray for Ross and his staff as they seek to reach the new freshman at WKU and bring them into the community of believers at WKU.
- Pray for Ross as he preaches through the Gospel of Mark during RUF Wednesday nights of worship, and also for RUF's weekly small groups.
- Pray for interns Cathy and Thomas as they raise their support and build relationships with the students in RUF.
- Pray for the student leadership in RUF to continue to grow in their love for Christ and the Church.

Today's message, "Reunited," is taken from Genesis 42:I-38. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- How does God use physical hunger to address spiritual matters in this passage? What other stories in the Scripture use physical hunger to address spiritual matters?
- Bruce Waltke writes, "Joseph's tactics [toward his brothers] are harsh, but his emotions are tender."
 Take a moment to discuss the complicated back and forth with Joseph and his brothers.
- Why do you think Joseph put his brothers to the test? Is it ever wise/right to test another? Talk this out with your family, friends, or HFG.
- How does the reconciling power of the gospel compel us to pursue reconciliation with one another?
- Are you estranged from anyone? If so, have you taken steps toward reconciliation (see Romans 12:18)? Is there anything more required of you at this time?
- God doesn't promise that we'll be reconciled to everyone in this life. What hope does the gospel provide for relationships that are never reconciled?

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version