

Sunday Worship on October 20, 2024

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song BOP 374 Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 300 Father, we love you
- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Hebrews 5:1-10
- Second reading: Psalm 91:9-16 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Isaiah 53:4-12
- Sermon: He was wounded by our transgressions
- Hymn 57 On eagle's wings
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 375 Fairest Lord Jesus

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Welcome and Announcement:

Responsive Call to Worship

Bless the LORD, O my soul, for the Lord our God is very great.

God is clothed with honour and majesty, wrapped in brightness like a garment.

God stretches out the heavens like a tent, riding on wings of the wind.

O Lord, in wisdom you have made each unique creature. With all of them, we come to praise you.

Let us praise God's holy name together!

Praise song – BOP 374 Of for a thousand tongues to sing

Prayer of Adoration

Praise be to you, O God, for the wonders of your creation. You spin the galaxies and stretch out the seas to the furthest horizon. You lift the curtain of dawn to end the night. You give the earth its seasons and each creature its lifespan, breathing life into each precious soul. And so we come to praise you, knowing human greatness is a mere shadow of yours. Breathe your Holy Spirit into us once again, and inspire us to serve you with creativity and commitment, and the honesty and humility we meet in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Prayer of confession (Unison) *(Let us come to God with the Prayer of confession in Unison)*

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to walk your way in the world, serving our neighbours and loving our enemies. We confess these are not easy choices for us. We seek acknowledgement for our own achievements, and enjoy being served. Forgive us, O God, for seeking our own way rather than your way.

Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us: *(The Lord's Prayer:)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love for us in Jesus Christ. Humbly seek the mercy of God. Be at peace with God, Be at peace with yourself and Be at peace with one another.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you. *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

Praise song – BOP 300 Father, we love you

Prayer for children

Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)

- First reading: Hebrews 5:1-10
- Second reading: Psalm 91:9-16 (refrain 2)
- Third reading: Isaiah 53:4-12

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: He was wounded for our transgressions

Today's main passage, Isaiah 53:4-12 tells about a servant who would come and suffer for the sins of other people. This Servant, as we know, is Jesus Christ. Isaiah wrote about Jesus Christ hundreds of years before Jesus came. However, Isaiah clearly describes what Jesus went through for our salvation.

The title of today's sermon is **“He was wounded for our transgressions.”** This is exactly what Jesus did. He was wounded and punished, not for his own sins, but for ours. In our Reformed tradition, we firmly believe as truth that Jesus took our place. Jesus suffered the punishment we deserved, so that we could have peace with God. As we listen to the story of the great sacrifice of Jesus for us, let us offer our hearts to him.

Today's passage starts with **v4, “Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases”** NIV writes, **“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering.”** This tells us that Jesus carried the burden of our pain and our sin. The pain he experienced was not his own. It was the result of our sin and rebellion against God.

However, at first, the people did not understand this. **V5, “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities.”** The word “transgressions” means the ways we have broken God’s law, and “iniquities” means our moral corruption or sinful nature. Jesus was pierced, whipped, and crushed because of our sins, not his. He took the punishment that we should have received.

This is the core of the gospel message. Jesus took our place. He suffered so that we could be forgiven. **Romans 6:23 states, “the wages of sin is death.”** Instead of us receiving that death, Jesus took our death upon himself. This is called **substitutionary atonement**. Jesus became our substitute. Jesus took the punishment for our sin, so that we would not have to take the death.

V5 continues, “the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” This is one of the most beautiful truths in all of scripture. Jesus was punished so that we could have peace with God. His wounds bring us healing. It’s not physical healing, but spiritual healing. Through the suffering of Jesus Christ, we are made right with God.

We need to be reminded how amazing this is. We were the ones who turned away from God. **V6a, “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way.”** Like sheep that wander away from their shepherd, we wandered away from God by sinning and choosing our own path. But instead of leaving us in our lost and sinful ways, **V6b “The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”**

This means that God the Father put all of our sins on Jesus. Jesus willingly carried the full weight of our sins on the cross. He took all our guilt and shame so that we could be forgiven and become free. We are saved through the suffering of Jesus Christ.

V7, “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.”

Even though Jesus had to take great suffering, he did not complain or defend himself. He did not resist or try to escape his suffering. Like a lamb that goes quietly to be sacrificed, Jesus accepted what was happening to him because he knew it was part of God’s salvation plan for us.

The silence of Jesus was not weakness. It was obedience. Jesus knew that he had come to die for our sins. He submitted himself to God’s will. **Luke 22:42, Jesus prayed to God in the garden of Gethsemane, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”** This shows that Jesus chose to obey God, even though it meant great suffering for him.

So far, we talked about Jesus’ obedience. So, one might say that is this all? Jesus suffered and died. This is the end of the story?

OF COURSE NOT!

In the story of the suffering Jesus does not end with Jesus’ death. V10-12, Isaiah points to the victory that comes after the suffering. **“Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.”**

Even though it was God’s will for Jesus to suffer, Isaiah also tells us that he will see his offspring and prolong his days.” This means that Jesus’ death was not the end. He rose from the dead! He lives forever! And through his resurrection, we are given new life!

V11, Isaiah also tells, **“by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.”** Jesus’ death brought us justification. To be justified means to be declared righteous before God. Through faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and we are made right with God.

In v12, Isaiah states, **“he will divide the spoils with the strong.”** This is a picture of Jesus’ victory. Because Jesus was obedient to God and gave his life for us, Jesus is now exalted in heaven, reigning as King. His suffering led to glory, and because of his victory, we are able to share in the blessings of eternal life with him.

Jesus was wounded for our transgressions. Now, how should we respond to him?

First, let us have deep gratitude. Jesus took on unimaginable suffering for our sake. He died so that we could be forgiven. Let our hearts be filled with thankfulness for his amazing grace.

Second, we should live in the peace and healing that Jesus has purchased for us. He took the punishment we deserved so that we could have peace with God. Let us live as people who are forgiven and healed. We are no longer weighed down by sin and guilt.

Third, let us share this good news with others. The world needs to hear the message of Jesus. Jesus was wounded for our transgressions. May we be faithful in proclaiming the gospel in our daily lives. Let us guide people to the Saviour who took their place on the cross.

May the love, grace, wisdom, and power of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour be with you.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 57 On eagle’s sings

Prayer for the people

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains. You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas. I am strong, when I am on your shoulders, you raise me up to more than I can be. Jesus Christ, you died for us and you raised us to life. With your death on the cross, our sins were washed away. Thank you for the cross. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for your love. As we lift up your people in our prayer, listen to us and answer our prayer in your ways and in your time.

We remember those who are suffering from wars. Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine.. Due to political conflicts, different values, power struggles, people are dying and suffering. Merciful God, help them. Have mercy upon them. Protect civilians and soldiers. Change the hearts of leaders. Give them wisdom to stop wars and find way for peace.

We also remember and pray for weather crisis. We all feel it. Over the time, we experience too many disasters like wildfires, flood, extreme heat, or flood. God of creation, help us be good steward of your creation. Give us wisdom and courage. Help us accept some degrees of inconvenience such as reducing disposables, saving water, and planting trees. Help us change and help us save the earth.

There are people who have physical illnesses. Embrace them. Give them peace and healing. There are people who are going through difficult times. Give them faith and guide them in your ways. There are people who have broken hearts. Pour out your love, so they are healed and they are overflowing like spring water.

You are God and you are good. We rely upon your love and goodness. Give us faith and give us patience. Hold our hands and walk with us. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

The Scriptures remind us how much we depend on God's goodness. Jesus invites us to put others' needs before our own, to serve in the world as he did. Our offering is one way we give God thanks and serve those who depend on our kindness as well as God's.

As we praise and worship God with our gifts, let us glorify him with all our hearts.

BOP #830, Doxology.

Offering prayer:

Gracious God, we offer you these gifts, small expressions of our love for you. Bless them with the power of your Holy Spirit so they may accomplish more than we can even imagine, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our Friend. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 375 Fairest Lord Jesus

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. Yesterday, we had the celebration of life for a long time scout member. Putting up three fingers are the scout sign. Duty for God, duty for other, and duty for self. Jesus Christ filled all three. Let us learn from him. For the sake of your life, God gave up his son. For the sake of your life, Jesus Christ chose to die. Let us remember his death and honour him. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Commission and Benediction

Cherish each day as God's gift / So that you may gain a wise heart, / And live with gratitude for all God's goodness. // So may the God who made you, / The Christ who mends you, / And the Holy Spirit who brings you life / Bless and keep you now and always. Amen