



EVENING WORSHIP

OCTOBER 29|2017

Music for Meditation | Linda Wolfe (piano), Ana Gilmore (violin)

Prelude | The Reformation Hymn

Call to Worship | Lamentations 3:22-25

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

Trinity Hymnal 457 | Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Opening Prayer

A Confession of Faith Concerning Scripture | Psalm 19:7-11 (responsive)

Pastor: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Pastor: The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Pastor: The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;

People: The rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

Pastor: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

People: Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Pastor: Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Trinity Hymnal 94 | How Firm a Foundation

Reading | Martin Luther on the Bible

Song | O Church Arise

Congregational Prayer

Tithes and Offerings followed by Prayer of Dedication | General Fund

Scripture | Romans 10:14

Sermon | “How Shall They Hear?” | Pastor Dale Van Dyke

Prayer of Application

Trinity Hymnal 92 | A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Benediction

Silent Prayer | **Postlude**

Martin Luther on the Bible

The Uniqueness of Its Character

We must make a great difference between God's Word and the word of man. A man's word is a little sound, that flies into the air, and soon vanishes; but the Word of God is greater than heaven and earth, yea, greater than death and hell, for it forms part of the power of God, and endures everlastingly; we should, therefore, diligently study God's Word, and know and assuredly believe that God himself speaks unto us.

The Beauty of its Simplicity

I admonish every pious Christian that he take not offence at the plain, unvarnished manner of speech of the Bible. Let him reflect that what may seem trivial and vulgar to him, emanates from the high majesty, power, and wisdom of God. The Bible is the book that makes fools of the wise of this world; it is understood only of the plain and simple-hearted. Esteem this book as the precious fountain that can never be exhausted. In it thou findest the swaddling-clothes and the manger whither the angels directed the poor, simple shepherds; they seem poor and mean, but dear and precious is the treasure that lies therein.

The Tragedy of its Loss

No greater mischief can happen to a Christian people, than to have God's Word taken from them, or falsified, so that they no longer have it pure and clear. God grant we and our descendants be not witnesses of such a calamity.

Let us not lose the Bible, but with diligence, in fear and invocation of God, read and preach it. While that remains and flourishes, all prospers with the state; 'tis head and empress of all arts and faculties. Let but divinity fall, and I would not give a straw for the rest.

The Miracle of Its Preservation

Infinite potentates have raged against this book, and sought to destroy and uproot it—king Alexander the Great, the princes of Egypt and of Babylon, and monarchs of Persia, of Greece, and of Rome, the emperors Julius and Augustus—but they nothing prevailed; they are all gone and vanished, while the book remains, and will remain for ever and ever, perfect and entire, as it was declared at the first. Who has thus helped it—who has thus protected it against such mighty forces? No one, surely, but God himself, who is the master of all things. And 'tis no small miracle how God has so long preserved and protected this book; for the devil and the world are sore foes to it.

The Glory of its Worth

Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction. A fiery shield is God's Word; of more substance and purer than gold, which, tried in the fire, loses nought of its substance, but resists and overcomes all the fury of the fiery heat; even so, he that believes God's Word overcomes all, and remains secure everlastingly, against all misfortunes; for this shield fears nothing, neither hell nor the devil.

