

Welcome to Worship

August 20, 2023

Prelude *Eventide* ~ C. Hubert H. Parry

Gathering Hymn *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* ~ ELW 843

Prayer of the Day

O God of life, though this world is filled with troubles and powers of oppression, we know that we are yours. Give us strength and courage to be your people in this world which, though troubled, belongs to you and is loved by you. In Jesus name we pray; Amen.

First Reading Revelation 13; 18:21; 19:5-9

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads; and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority. One of its heads seemed to have received a death-blow, but its mortal wound had been healed. In amazement the whole earth followed the beast. They worshipped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshipped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?'

The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also, it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slaughtered.

Let anyone who has an ear listen:

If you are to be taken captive, into captivity you go;

if you kill with the sword, with the sword you must be killed.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Then I saw another beast that rose out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed. It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of all; and by the signs that it is allowed to perform on behalf of the beast, it deceives the inhabitants of earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet lived; and it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast could even speak and cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell who does not have the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let anyone with understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a person. Its number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,
**‘With such violence Babylon the great city will be thrown down,
and will be found no more’**

And from the throne came a voice saying,
“Praise our God, all you his servants, and all who fear him, small and great.’

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,
‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure’—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me,
‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.

Word of God. Word of life
Thanks be to God

Gospel John 15: 9-11

As the father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is the Good News!
Thanks be to God

Hymn of the Day *What Wondrous Love is This* ~ ELW 666

Musical Offering *Mourning by Morning* ~ Video by The Work of the People

Offertory Hymn *Thine the Amen* ~ ELW 826 (vs. 1, 4)

Communion Hymn *Abide with Me* ~ ELW 629

Sending Hymn *Soon and Very Soon* ~ ELW 439

Postlude *What Wondrous Love is This* ~ Craig Phillips

Altar Flowers are from Karan Haynes in honor of Tom, Suzanne and Michelle.