

Welcome to Worship

September 15th, 2024

Prelude

Voluntary in D minor ~ John Stanley; Elegy ~ Paul Fey

Gathering Hymn

God, Bless the Hands ~ ACS 1022

Prayer of the Day

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

Psalm

116:1-9

I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
for the Lord has given | ear to me
whenever | I called.

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name | of the Lord:
"O Lord, I pray you, | save my life."

Gracious is the | Lord and righteous;
our God is full | of compassion.

The Lord watches o- | ver the innocent;
I was brought low, | and God saved me.

Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.
for the Lord has dealt | well with you.

For you have rescued my | life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;

I will walk in the presence | of the Lord
in the land | of the living.

Second Reading

James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

Gospel

Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Hymn of the Day

O, Praise the Gracious Power ~ ELW 651 (1-3, 7)

Musical Offering

*Let All Things Now Living ~ arr. Jason W. Krug
(Hallelujah Ringers)*

Offertory Hymn

Feed Us with Hunger for Justice ~ ACS 968 (3x)

Communion Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me ~ ELW 798

Sending Hymn

Let All Things Now Living ~ ELW 881

Postlude

Voluntary in F major ~ John Stanley