

Christ Congregational Church

Lufkin, Texas



Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday

MAY 7, 2017

10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In reverence for Almighty God, whom we gather to worship, and out of respect for those sitting around you, please silence all cell phones and electronic devices. Christ Church acolytes are: Lauren Summers and Parker Winthrop.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The entrance tower bell is rung to summon God's people to the worship of the Eternal Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Please observe silence

PRELUDE

"Prelude on 'Boylston'"

*David C. Lawson, organ
arr. Gordon Young*

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, we invite you to join us in silently offering the following prayer of preparation:

Holy Father, we come together in your presence as the family of God to offer you praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive your Holy Word, to bring before you the needs of the world, to ask forgiveness of our sins, and to seek your grace; grant these things through your Son Jesus Christ in order that we may go from this place strengthened by your Spirit to give ourselves to His service. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE

The Reverend Randall K. Green

The people stand

ENTRANCE HYMN - 64

"Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Joyful Song

The people standing

OPENING PRAYER

The Reverend Randall K. Green

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The people are seated

THE FIRST LESSON

Ephesians 4.17-24; M. Todd Stracener, lector

Lector

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.¹

Lector

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The people seated

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32.1-4, 8-11

Choir

R: He leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

Lector

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,

and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *R*

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,

and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! *R*

THE PSALM PRAYER

The Reverend Randall K. Green

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THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The people stand
All sing

THE GLORIA PATRI - 615

Meineke

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.

The people are seated

ANTHEM

The Christ Church Chorale
John Ness Beck

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

The people seated

THE SECOND LESSON

I Corinthians 3.13-15; Romans 14.10c-12

Lector

Each [Christian’s] work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. . . .

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Lector
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand

HYMN -495

“A Charge to Keep I Have”

Boylston

The people standing

THE THIRD LESSON

I Peter 1.14-23

Lector

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

Lector
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The people seated

THE SERMON

The Reverend Randall K. Green

“Be Holy” (part 2 of 2)

The people stand

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

All

I believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick² and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic³ and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism⁴ for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

All standing

DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

All sing

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye, heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

² The “quick” are those living at the time of Christ’s second coming, as opposed to the dead, who will be resurrected to face judgment.

³ “Catholic” does not here signify the Roman Catholic Church, but rather, the universal Christian Church.

⁴ “Baptism” understood, not as a physical act, but as a true, spiritual baptism by which a believer is incorporated into Christ through faith.

THE PREPARATION FOR SERVICE

The people seated

The minister introduces the intercessory prayers, after which the following petitions are offered:

Intercessor

Eternal Father, as those who have been given a precious trust--the riches of God in Christ-- remind your Church always that we must prove faithful to our privileges and to the command we have been given: to live holy lives of loving obedience. Let us be glad and rejoice;

People

for steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord!

Intercessor

Gracious Father, many will be graduating from colleges and other institutions of higher learning in the week ahead, including Jessica Skipper and Kody Green, charter members of *Christ Church*, who stood before us four years ago in the *The Lodge* and for whose success we then petitioned you. Today, we rejoice with them in their achievements and celebrate their impending graduations, even as we ask for your continued guidance and direction as the road of their adult and professional lives opens up before them. Go with them, Good Shepherd, protect them, lead them and inspire them to live before others the faith with which you have entrusted them. Let us be glad and rejoice;

People

for steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord!

Intercessor

Loving God, you have promised to bind up the brokenhearted and to bring comfort to those in peril or need, who seek your face. Therefore, we pray to you especially on behalf of those burdened saints of our own worshiping fellowship, whose cares we now bring before your throne of grace in the quietude of our individual hearts. . . . Let us be glad and rejoice;

People

for steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord!

Minister

The minister concludes the intercessory prayers, concluding with "The Lord's Prayer":

All

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The people stand

CLOSING HYMN - 373

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Bradbury

Minister

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

arr. Wilbur Held