

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 31, 2016

THEME: God's love is made real to us in the New Covenant

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ON GOD

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

C: Amen.

TIME TO REFLECT ON OURSELVES.....AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and glorify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence

SONG OF CONFESSION (Twice through)

White As Snow

White as snow, white as snow,
Though my sins were as scarlet
Lord, I know, Lord, I know
That I'm clean and forgiven.
Through the power of Your Blood,
Through the wonder of Your Love,
Through faith in You, I know that I can be
White as snow, white as snow.

PRAYER

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Red Book" 1

How Majestic Is Your Name

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, We praise your name. O Lord, We magnify your name,
Prince of Peace, mighty God, O Lord God Almighty.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray.....

C: O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

C: Amen

HEARING FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah promises a New Covenant

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 8:6-13

Jesus, High Priest of a Better Covenant

But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

For he finds fault with them when he says:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,

when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah,

not like the covenant that I made with their fathers

on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

For they did not continue in my covenant,

and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws into their minds,

and write them on their hearts,

and I will be their God,

and they shall be my people.

And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor

and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’

for they shall all know me,

from the least of them to the greatest.

For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,

and I will remember their sins no more.”

In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

CHOIR ANTHEM

That Old Rugged Cross

By Don Besig

Gospel Reading: John 13:31-34

Jesus Gives the New Covenant

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG "Green Book" 499 Come, Thou Fount.....

Come, thou fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee; May I still thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts above

SERMON

"A Lasting Promise"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING (We give our offerings as a sign of our lives offered to God.)

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS & MUSIC

"Red Book" 108

I've Got Peace Like A River

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a
River, I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a
River, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an
Ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an
Ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a
Fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a
Fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

"Green Book" 327

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me. Let me hide myself in thee.

A CLOSING BLESSING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ + and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Red Book" 233 This is My Commandment

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you trust one another, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you trust one another, that your joy may be full.

That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you trust one another, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you serve one another that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you serve one another that your joy may be full.

That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you serve one another that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you lay down your lives, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you lay down your lives, that your joy may be full.

That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you lay down your lives, that your joy may be full.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!