

REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM: SUNDAY 14 JULY 2013 EVENING SERVICE

Sing before: Psalm 2:4, 6

Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Psalm of praise: Psalm 86:8

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

Amen

Psalm 89:11

Scripture reading: Psalm 2

Scripture text: Psalm 2:6, 7; Heidelberg Catechism Sunday 13

6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

7 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You (Psalm 2:6, 7)

All nations are riotous and rebellious against the Lord.

- Still Psalm 2 tells with these words about the peace-kingdom of the Anointed King of God.
- He is the Savior bringing a kingdom into being without anybody able to resist Him because He was anointed and begotten by God, and He is God Himself.

This passage describes the redemption work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Because who else than Jesus Christ will redeem people and establish a kingdom?
- Take note how the Old Testament predicts the Lord Jesus in Psalm 2:
 - He is the Son of God.
 - God begot Him.

These are very important words as the New Testament teaches the same: Jesus is the Son of God.

- As an example in John 5:18 we read that the Lord Jesus said that God is His Father and He also puts Himself on the par with God – exactly how it is written in Psalm 2.
- **Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.** (John 5:18)
- The Jews did not understand these matters. Therefore upon hearing the Lord Jesus making Himself equal with God, they tried to kill Him.

Romans 8:32 also echoes this but elaborates further about this matter:

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

This passage also teaches that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God.

- Furthermore it teaches that He died for us – the Father delivered the Son to His wrath, so that thereby He bore the punishment for all of us.
- In this way He achieved our atonement.

In what way is Jesus the Son of God? Is it meant only figuratively – in other words is it just a way of speech? Or is Jesus really the Son of God?

- The answer is that, although He existed forever, Jesus is indeed the Son of God.
- This means that, although at a specific moment He was born from Mary – this was how He became a human - He always existed.

Let us immediately state the following:

- Because he is too great and powerful in His ways and thoughts, we cannot understand everything God does.
- *This matter of Jesus being God Himself and that He was not created and existed since eternity, but non the less, was born out of a woman, is one of those matters completely beyond our understanding, that God can plan and do.*

For many ages we confess these matters by our writings of confession.

- As an example in the confession of Athanasia article 8, we confess the following:
8. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible.
- And in article 13:
And yet they are not three almighties, but one almighty.
- And in article 22:
The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

Why do we confess all these difficult matters?

- We do so in aid of confessing very clearly and straightforward that Jesus is truly God.
- He, because He is equal with God, is God.

- He does Godly works and He carries God's names.
- He, because He is God that must be worshipped, is worshipped as God should be worshipped.

This, as an example, we read in Colossians 1:13 – 15:

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
 (Colossians 1:13 –15)

Do you see that here the Bible not only reveals Jesus as the Redeemer paying with His blood for sinners and thereafter establishing a heavenly Kingdom?

- He is also described as the Image of the unseen God
- He is the unseen God Himself, who for a while revealed himself to us in a human body.

1 John 5:20 describes Jesus' Godliness exactly as such:

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
 (1 John 15:20)

But now we also are children of God.

- Of course it is in a totally different way than the Lord Jesus Christ!
- He, as we have seen, is God's own Son and we are adopted children.

Should we be totally honest, we must admit that, because we do many things disliked by God, we are children of the wrath.

- We commit sins and are disobedient and often, by our coarse deeds, dishonour the image of God within us.
- We often trample on the mercy of God.

But, through the death of His Son, the Lord in fact fetches us out of this condition.

- He transforms us into children that can be obedient.
- He makes us to be again children of the light.

Take note of the difference.

- The Lord Jesus Christ is God's uncreated and sinless Son.
- There against we are created people,
 - who fell into sin and
 - had to be redeemed again and
 - had to be brought back to the purpose of our creation.

This is also the reason why we confess Jesus as "our Lord".

- By His mercy he repaired our powerlessness back to power.

- He changed us from a state of perdition into redeemed people.
- He overturned our lack of love for God into worshipping.

In other words He totally renewed us – physically and spiritually.

- The spiritual renewal we already experience in our daily conversion and our obedience to God.
- We also experience it in our faith.

The physical renewal will only take place on the day of the resurrection when the earth will give up our bodies for God to glorify and reunite our bodies with our spirits.

Now follows the application: We confess Jesus as the Son of God who also is our Lord – but it must work in our daily faith.

- The fact of us confessing Jesus as the Son of God does not make us any better than the devil as in the Bible there are a number of examples where the devil also confessed the Lord Jesus as Jesus, the Son of the living God!
- We must realize that by the death of Jesus, we truly became the property of God.

At first we were creatures who lost the purpose of our lives to serve God.

- The Lord Jesus changed us into children of God.
- Now we must see to it that we adapt our lives thereto, because should we realize this, we must correct all wrong matters in our lives.

Come, let us read what the Heidelberg Catechism, Sunday 13, has to say about these matters:

Q. 33.

Why is Christ called the "only begotten Son" of God, since we are also the children of God?

A.

Because Christ alone is the eternal and natural Son of God; (a) but we are children adopted of God, by grace, for his sake. (b)

(a)

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

Heb.1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb.1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Rom.8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

(b)

Rom.8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Rom.8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Rom.8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Gal.4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Eph.1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph.1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Q. 34.

Wherefore callest thou him "our Lord"?

A.

Because he hath redeemed us, both soul and body, from all our sins, not with silver or gold, but with his precious blood, and has delivered us from all the power of the devil; and thus has made us his own property. (a)

(a)

1 Pet.1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

1 Pet.1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Pet.2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1 Cor.6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Cor.7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

1 Tim.2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Amen.

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 118:1, 2

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

Amen

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