

REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 11 MAY 2014 MORNING SERVICE

Sing before: Psalm 68:1

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: Scripture Versification 2-4:1, 2

Confession of faith: Nicene

We 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 ages; 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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father, and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 100:2

Law

Psalm: 100:2

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 48:4

Scripture reading: Matthew 28

Scripture text: Matthew 28:18b, 20

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

(Matthew 28:18b)

and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

(Matthew 28:20)

Many people have a great concern: Does the Lord know me? How certain can I be of definitely going to heaven?

The doubt in our hearts is substantiated by the matters we daily experience in our lives. We often deal with troubles.

- How can such things happen should the Lord know me?
- What about all the heartache?
- What about all the hypocrisy? There are so many people giving themselves out as Christians, but they do and say such awful things!

Let us consider the history from the start.

- We people are tempted into sin by the Satan.
- Immediately the Lord comes and He promises salvation.
- Redemption of sins but also salvation from the miseries and struggle.

That entire part of history is completed by the arrival of the Messiah. With the arrival of the Messiah we face the same contradictions we daily experience.

- A Child is born
- His parents are poor.
- Can this be God who has to deliver a world from its sins? Is this how an Almighty looks like?

The Child grows up. He is a man crossing the entire Palestine by foot to preach about God to the people.

- Again we face the question: Is this God of heaven and earth? The people despise Him. They scorn and belittle Him.
- Often He barely escapes them with His life.

Eventually they catch Him. Commit perjury in court to have Him crucified. They humiliate Him to the highest degree.

- Standing on Golgotha are three crosses – the two outside ones are of criminals.
- Between them stands the cross of the Messiah.

Could it be the God having power over heaven and earth hanging there? And together with gangsters? It does not make sense.

Now also consider the symbol of death on the cross.

- This Jesus Christ who is God the Saviour is hanging helplessly between heaven and earth.
- The heaven does not want Him and neither does the earth want Him.

Then the answer is: Yes, it is God!

- It is Jesus Christ and should He not have died there would have been no hope for you and me!
- Should He have been welcome on earth He would have had to share in the sin. That He could not have done. Therefore the earth rejected Him.
- He never allowed sin to overcome Him. Thereby He displays His Godly almight.
- The satan acknowledges it by Christ hanging on the cross. Indeed he kills the Lord Jesus because he could not conquer Him!

On the other hand Jesus could not just have left earth to go to heaven.

- He first had to bear the punishment of God by dying.
- He also had to first break the power of death over the people. He had to die as a human and become alive again.
- Then the power of the devil was broken and Jesus departed to heaven.

See how terrible the punishment was that Jesus Christ had to bear so that you and me have the certainty of having the eternal life:

- Forsaken He hangs there.
- Alone, because not even God is with Him:
My God, My God, why have You forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46)

In His death the almight of Jesus Christ also comes to the foreground.

- Alone and without help He breaks the power of the satan.
- This is who the God is telling us: **All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

Everything took place in the moment of the resurrection. The body of Jesus Christ no longer hangs naked on the cross. He is now clothed with Godly glory.

How do we know this? It is written in Revelation 1.

- John, while he was in exile on the island of Patmos, sees the Lord Jesus.

- But the remarkable is that there is something different about the Lord Jesus – His glory is no so immense that it slings John like a dead to the ground.

The apostle John remembers very well how dry the mouth of Jesus was on the day He died:

- He proclaimed His thirst and when they brought Him vinegar to drink for revival He denied it.
- But when He ascended to heaven that same mouth was no longer dry. That mouth then said that He would look after us.

And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. (Matthew 28:20)

The One who now has the word is no longer the despised Man who preached in the temple of Jerusalem to His people.

- The voice is the voice of the God of heaven and earth.
- Those words of the Lord Jesus Christ make our entire existence.

This is the condition under which the church on earth exists: Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, lives and has power over everything in heaven and on earth.

- Subjected to Him are the ten thousand times ten thousands of angels mentioned in the book of Daniel.
- They serve God daily and nightly. And part of their work is to see to it that we are cared for.

Every moment angels are sent from heaven to fight the satan – to thereby protect us.

- Now the Lord Jesus is bust readying our place in heaven. He Himself says so.
- He prays for us.

But the day of the Lord Jesus making His almight also visible on earth is nearing

- This time it will be completely different to the first time.
- He will not come again as an offer to atonement.
- He will also not come in poverty.
- He comes with the wealth of power that reaches over all power. He does not come to be despised again.

Hoe does He come again?

- He comes as a holder of power.
- He will be a Judge judging with irresistible power over everything and everybody.

To some His judgement will the eternal life and to others the eternal death. And nobody will date doubt or resist His judgement! It will then be too late to decide that you want to be a good believer.

Consider again for a moment the Second Coming:

- The Lord Jesus Christ comes with so much power and majesty that it will kill a person simply seeing it!

- It will be a moment of terrible fright for those who do not truly believe. Just read Revelation 1.

There it is written that He will destroy all that denied His death and resurrection.

- The Bible teaches that His voice will be like the thundering of mighty waters.
- In other words the entire Person of Jesus preaches war when He comes again!
- His loins are girded with a golden belt. By His power He casts down everybody who was impure and tramples them with feet glowing like copper in a furnace.

Beloved, the Lord Jesus preaches grace and judgement.

- Grace, because in Him you have the assurance of the eternal life.
 - Should you believe in this powerful God then you need not doubt about your salvation.
 - There is nothing that can destroy the salvation He grants you!

You may be assured that should you now die, then you are with God.

- The guarantee is the power of Jesus Christ.
- The heaven and earth is subjected onto Him – therefore it is within His power to assure you of salvation.

But reject or doubt this salvation and you will be trampled by the feet of this eternal Judge.

Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ grants us the salvation that is greater than any experience we have ever had upon this earth.

- Nothing can ever take this salvation away from us.
- He is with us all the days till the end – this is what He died for. This is what He was resurrected for from the death. This is what He ascended for to heaven. And this is what He again comes for.

Let us every day believe and convert. Know for a fact that your responsibility and true conversion in fact is worked by the Holy Spirit because you were chosen by God for eternal life.

Amen.

Closing prayer

Closing Psalm: 84:4

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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 Helping Reverend
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 Scripture: Modern King James Version