

October 18th Bulletin

Prelude

Announcements (will be on Facebook Live screen)

Call to Worship:

Pastor: One thing I asked of the Lord,

People: This is what I seek:

Pastor: To dwell in the house of the Lord

People: All the days of my life,

Pastor: To behold the beauty of the Lord,

People: And to inquire in his temple.

Opening Hymn #95 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.

He descended into hell. The third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession

Scripture: Esther 2:5-18

Sermon: Men and Women of the Bible: Esther

Time of Prayer (Note: For now, we will not be asking for spoken joys and concerns. Please text them, send them by Facebook messenger, or leave them on the pulpit.)

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:

for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn #622 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Offering Reminder (online giving is available at www.cedarvilleunited.org)

Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Notes:

Introduction

- Esther goes through preparations to meet the King
- How do we come into the Lord's presence and develop a closer relationship with Him?

Background of Passage

- Judah had been sent into captivity due to their sinful and unrepentant hearts.
- Rather than returning to Jerusalem, Mordecai stayed in the land of Persia under the reign of a King named Xerxes.
- Pagan king was cruel, like many of the kings in Judah and Israel
- Chapter 1: King Xerxes was giving a huge festival lasting for six months

Miracle of Marrying the King (Author: Marcia Hoehne)

- First, she surrendered her former life. When we become Christians, we must take care not to just live proper, churchy lives. It's about growing in Christ.
- Second, Esther began six months of treatment with oil of myrrh (2:12). Myrrh is both bitter and pleasantly fragrant. It was used to embalm people, yet it heals many ailments. It both removes impurities and softens the skin.
- Third, Esther received another six months of perfumes. Esther became physically saturated with sweet spices and symbolically saturated with worship. What are we saturated in?
- Fourth, Esther's turn came to go into the king's chamber. She took advice from someone who knew the king's taste so she could present herself in a way that would please him. What pleases God? Our prayers. Our worship. Our study of the Word. Our obedience. Our love. Jesus told us this when he was on earth. We know this from the Bible. Do we do this?

For Us Today

- First, by surrendering our former lives. The closer we get to God, the more we realize we need Him. Are we listening for the Holy Spirit? Are we allowing God to make us aware of areas where we may be stubborn and resistant?
- Second comes repentance. Rather than viewing repentance as a series of responses to sins, we immerse ourselves to soak in an atmosphere of repentance. How do we view repentance? Is it something we do in the few seconds on Sunday mornings, or do we lead a life of repentance? Do we ask God where we have sinned...not just actions but attitudes and intentions?
- Third, we prepare for intimacy with the King through praise and worship. Here, we soak in His presence. We focus on His face and not His hand. We focus on Him so intently that the world falls away. How do you worship God during the week? Some of you have shared all sorts of things – worship music in the car, a Bible study podcast, devotionals, structured Bible reading, prayer group.

Opening Hymn #95

"All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name"

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the worm-wood and the gall,
go, spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all;
go, spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
we'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

Closing Hymn #622

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.