

“ROMAN ROAD”
JUNE 28, 2020 SUNDAY SERVICE & SERMON
(abbreviated COVID 19 service/50% seating capacity)
Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: Carol Gustafson

HYMN #507 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (congregation remains seated for all singing)

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

(Verse 3: Indoor service only)

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

PRAYER

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: *Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

SCRIPTURE LESSON (Titus Pillman’s baptismal verses): *Isaiah 54:13-17 And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. 14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. 15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. 16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. 17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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 Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come 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

BAPTISMAL HYMN #247 “Dearest Jesus, We are Here” (same hymn sung at mother Patricia’s baptism)

BAPTISM OF “TITUS JUSTO PILLMAN” Parents Justo and Patricia Pillman; Sponsors are Lucas and Katie Pillman

SPECIAL MUSIC: Dave Reynolds accompanied by Ray Holmberg

**SERMON TITLE: “THE ROMAN ROAD”
The Book of Romans**

Last Sunday I asked Dave Fischer to come up and read our Epistle Lesson from Roman’s 6...but at the last moment I thought that it should have been Romans 3, so I had him read that good passage instead. The reason I had this change of mind is because Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23 are both very important verses about sin. So in light of this, I think it is time to have a sermon on how to share your faith using the book of Romans.

We are living in troubling times and people need to know how to get saved. The “Roman Road” is to me the simplest way to show people from the Bible the way of salvation. It keeps a person who is not well acquainted with the Bible in one book so they don’t get embarrassed about not knowing where to find the next verse. But before we go over these verses together, I want to share a foundational Scripture for witnessing. **Revelation 12:11--They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.**

The devil does not want to lose one of his hell-bound subjects so he fights us hard when we witness to the lost. Two key things are “our testimony” and the “blood of the Lamb.” Don’t forget to tell your testimony of the joy and peace you found when you received the forgiveness of sins and got new life in Christ. No one can argue with a true testimony. Don’t forget the “blood of the Lamb” because there is “power in the blood” and the gospel is all about the innocent Lamb of God dying in our guilty place.

After whetting their appetite by a brief testimony (Billy Graham society recommends 3 minutes or less for your testimony) then share the Word of God. Since the Bible says in **Romans 10:17 that “faith comes by hearing...the Word of God”** it is good to have your Bible and let the person you are sharing with read the verse themselves out loud. The Word of God creates faith.

#1 ROMANS 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” The way to help people see their sin is by using the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus shows us that adultery, stealing and killing are really expressions of lust, coveting and hatred in the heart. The commandments of God point out our sin and bring conviction to a soul that needs to realize that sin separates us from a Holy God.

#2 ROMANS 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God doesn't send anyone to hell, we choose to go there by choosing to sin. Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God and disobey him and so do we every time we sin. Sin brings death and separation from God. Why? Because God is holy. But God is loving and that is why He worked out a way for us to be forgiven as a gift of His grace.

#3 ROMANS 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God came to earth in the form of Christ. He initiates everything. He wants us saved. So Christ died on the cross after living an innocent and sinless life. He took our place. He even asked the Father to forgive those who were crucifying Him. The life is in the blood and the innocent blood of Jesus was shed. He took the punishment for our sins.

#4 ROMANS 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" Faith = trust. If you have faith in a chair you sit on it and trust it to hold you up. If you have faith in Christ you trust His death on the cross to be the sufficient payment for your sins...PAID IN FULL!

#5 ROMANS 8:1 "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" Even though we sin, our slate is marked clean in the books of heaven. We are no longer condemned sinners but we are God's children, adopted into His family. Today God adopted Titus Pillman into His family...all of grace. He wants to adopt all of us and take us to heaven when we die. He nails our sins to the cross and we bear them no more. "He casts them into the depths of the sea and remembers them no more, He removes them as far as the east is from the west." (Micah 7:19; Isaiah 43:25; Psalm 103:12)

#6 ROMANS 10:9 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Sometimes it helps to confess our faith in Christ out loud before others. Just tell someone you believe in Jesus! This strengthens our assurance we are saved. Holy Communion also strengthens our assurance that the blood of Christ is sufficient payment for all our sins. You can even use this direct quote, "Jesus is Lord" and the Bible says you can only say that by the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

I urge you to memorize these references and pray every morning that God would send a lost soul into your life and that you would witness to them and have the joy of leading them to Christ. It is a great moment when you help someone pray to receive Jesus and you see them get set free by His power!

PRAISE SONG (picked by Carol)

HOLY COMMUNION & 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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and grant you peace. Amen

DOXOLOGY: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

POSTLUDE: Carol Gustafson