

Minnesota Valley Church

Date: Sunday, January 29, 2023

Church Year Date: Transfiguration Sunday

Prelude: Carol Gustafson

Singers: Osthus

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 2 "Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. 3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." 4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." 7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." 10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

Hymn #57 "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Confession of Sin: *Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Children's Sermon:

Reader:

EPISTLE LESSON: *2 Peter 1:16-21 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 17:1-9 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. 4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters-one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."*

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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 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*

Gloria Patri: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Chosen by Carol

SERMON: THE GREAT COSMIC BATTLE, Psalm 2, Pastor Tom Olson *Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

UNSEEN: One of the most powerful statements someone has ever told me in my ministry went something like this: ***“I used to try to figure out why things were happening and why people act the way they do until one day it dawned on me, that everything I see is part of a great, unseen, spiritual battle. Once I realize that, it all made sense.”*** We are in a giant cosmic drama between good and evil, between God and Satan, between angels and demons. It affects nations, it affects families, it affects marriages, it affects our own souls. It is the source of anger, fighting, fear, depression, anxiety, strife, discord and every manner of trouble. Once we

realize it is a spiritual battle, we can get a proper perspective and an appropriate response.

GLIMPSE: Today we look at one glimpse of “THE GREAT COSMIC BATTLE” from Psalm 2. This Psalm has helped me so much in the past few years as I try to cope with what I see in the world and in our nation. Let’s talk about it.

I. THE TWO SIDES OF THE BATTLE: THE NATIONS VS CHRIST

Psalm 2:1-3 “Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. 3 “Let us break their chains,” they say, “and throw off their fetters.”

CONSPIRACIES: We hear a lot about conspiracy theories these days. We hear about the World Bank, the Federal Reserve, the Council of Foreign Relations, the World Health Organization, the Tri-Lateral Commission, the Bill Gates Foundation, the Bohemian Grove Cult, the Skull and Bones Society, the Global Reset, the Green Agenda, and so much more. The more you read and study the more frightening their agenda appears for us common people.

OPEN: The globalists behind all this have published their agenda and it is not secret. It has been carved in granite out in public on THE GEORGIA GUIDE STONES for years. These folks believe the world is overpopulated and they want to reduce the world population from 7 billion to about half a billion of people. That is about a 90% reduction of world population. They want to return most of the world back to wilderness, including most of the United States!!

METHODS: To do this they use man-made diseases, like HIV and COVID, abortion, euthanasia, food poisoning, aerial spraying,

homosexual grooming and other techniques to get people to die or be sterile or not produce children.

EATERS: In their eyes, they are saving the planet. These elites want to live but they call most of us “eaters” and want us to die.

JESUS: One thing that all the elites have in common is that they hate the Lord Jesus Christ. The biblical Jesus. The crucified, risen and coming again Jesus. They allow religious services and prayers but they will not tolerate the name of Jesus being mentioned. They go berserk. It is because the demonic spirits inside of them react to the Name of Jesus.

ANOINTED: Notice in these verses that national leaders conspire against the “LORD AND HIS ANOINTED ONE.” Jesus is the “anointed one” or “the Christ.” Satan is working through world leaders to try to find a way to fight against the Lord. They are fooled if they think they can win. Hitler thought he could rule the world but all he did was destroy his country and end up killing millions of people. The communists have done the same and the globalists are also on that destructive path. They have killed millions the past two years through the COVID virus which was almost certainly lab-made with US tax payer money! They finance abortion with US taxpayer money and kill millions of babies. (Did you hear the news this week about “P*****” planning on creating new viruses so they can sell more vaccines and make big money? That is what it appears they did with COVID!)

CHAINS: They say “LET US BREAK THE CHAINS.” To them, the Ten Commandments are “CHAINS” that bind them from having fun. They want to worship idols, they want to practice witchcraft, they want to be sexually immoral. God’s Word is something they want to destroy because it speaks out against what they do. It is an age-old spiritual battle. It is nothing new. All this was common in the Roman Empire and practiced by the Caesars. Bill O’Reilly’s book, “Killing Jesus” gives vivid description of the

debased Roman rulers. It is the same today, TWO SIDES, GOOD AND EVIL. SECONDLY...

II. THE PREDESTINED OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE: VICTORY IN CHRIST

Psalm 2:4-9 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." 7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

VICTORY: The biggest secret that Satan wants to keep the world from finding out is that Jesus has already won the victory. Jesus is patiently waiting all who are willing to come and join His heavenly family. As he waits, Satan rages on, but when the last soul that will be saved, comes to Christ, the day of grace will be over and Christ will return to usher in his glorious eternal kingdom. Satan and all of his followers will be thrown into the Lake of Fire and God will also eliminate sin, death, sorrow and pain. He will bring a kingdom of perfect love, joy and peace that we will experience for all eternity as his children.

POTTERY: Notice that it says, “HE WILL DASH THEM TO PIECES LIKE POTTERY.” Some of you know that I like to drink coffee out of a China cup and saucer. The other day I dropped my China cup about 8 inches on to the countertop and it broke to pieces. That is a picture of how easily Christ will deal with the evil hosts that are corrupting our children and the world.

WAR: I suspect all the world rulers will eventually have an agreement to use all their nuclear weapons on rockets and have them aimed at the sky to repel the return of Christ in the clouds. How foolish. *2 Thessalonians 2:7&8 “For the secret power of*

lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.” Zechariah 14:12&13 clearly describes what will happen.

CERTAIN: The victory over Satan and His people is certain. With just a word of Christ’s mouth they will be removed, literally disintegrated, in the final day. God laughs at them when they conspire to overthrow His eternal plans. The OUTCOME IS CERTAIN.

III. THE CALL TO CHOOSE SIDES: DISASTER OR BLESSING

Psalm 2:10-12 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

SIDES: The important question that the Psalmist asks, must be answered. “What side do I choose to be on?” Do I want to be on Satan’s side or do I want to follow the crucified, risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ and be a part of his heavenly band?

WARNING: The Psalmist warns the kings of this earth *“to fear and rejoice with trembling.”* He calls on them to honor the “Son (of God)” and reminds us that we are BLESSED IF WE TAKE REFUGE IN HIM.

TRANSFIGURATION: Today is Transfiguration Sunday. Moses and Elijah came from heaven to meet with Jesus in glorious light to discuss his upcoming suffering and death on the cross. This is actually a WAR ROOM planning meeting in the GREAT COSMIC BATTLE. Jesus Christ is about to defeat sin, death and

the power of the devil with the only weapon that could crush them. That weapon was HIS INNOCENT SUFFERING AND DEATH. We also take part in that battle with unusual weapons.

QUESTION: So what should we do? What are our weapons?

1. FAITH: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.
2. OBEDIENCE: Obey the Ten Commandments.
3. WITNESSING: Share the Gospel with others.
4. LOVE: Love is our highest weapon against evil. 1 Corinthians 13 reminds us that if we don’t have love, we are nothing. Love wins.

PROCLAIM: Holy Communion is our victory celebration. The song we are going to sing puts it well: *“Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, ‘till all the world adore His sacred Name.”* Amen

HYMN #508 “Lift High the Cross”
Lord’s Prayer
Benediction
Closing Song: Chosen by Carol
Postlude: Carol Gustafson