

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
October 13, 2024

"And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one." – Zechariah 14:9



trinityreformedct.org

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Revelation 1:13-20

Leader: And in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet,

People: And girded across His chest with a golden sash.

Leader: His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow;

People: And His eyes were like a flame of fire.

Leader: His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace,

People: And His voice was like the sound of many waters.

Leader: In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword;

People: And His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

Leader: When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying,

People: Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

Leader: And the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore,

People: And I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Leader: Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are,

People: And the things which will take place after these things.

Leader: As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand,

People: And the seven golden lampstands:

Leader: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches,

People: And the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Micah 7:18

***Hymn #296** (red hymnal) – “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 9:1-7; 11:1-10

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

*Doxology #731 (red hymnal)

*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.*

*Prayer of Dedication

*Sung Psalm #110D (see insert below) – “The Lord Said to My Lord”

Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer (sins)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Westminster Larger Catechism (1647 AD), Q#45

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Leader: | <i>How does Christ execute the office of a King?</i> | Acts 15:14-16; Is 55:4-5 |
| People: | In calling out of the world a people to Himself, | Gen 49:10; Ps 110:3 |
| Leader: | <i>And giving them officers, laws, and censures, by which he visibly governs them;</i> | Eph 4:11-12; 1Cor 12:28; Is 33:22 Matt 18:17-18; 1Cor 5:4-5 |
| People: | In bestowing saving grace upon His elect, | Acts 5:31 |
| Leader: | <i>Rewarding their obedience,</i> | Rev 22:12; 2:10 |
| People: | And correcting them for their sins, | Rev 3:19 |
| Leader: | <i>Preserving and supporting them under all their temptations and sufferings,</i> | Is 63:9 |
| People: | Restraining and overcoming all their enemies, | 1Cor 15:25; Ps 110:1-2 |
| Leader: | <i>And powerfully ordering all things for His own glory,</i> | Rom 14:10-11 |
| People: | And their good; | Rom 8:28 |
| Leader: | <i>And also in taking vengeance on the rest,</i> | 2Thes 1:8-9 |
| People: | Who know not God, and obey not the gospel. | Ps 2:8-9 |

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Revelation 5:1-7

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

*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.*

Sermon – “The Lamb-Lion”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

***Hymn #274** (red hymnal) – “Thine Be the Glory”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

Announcements

- The church would like to thank everyone that help out, and attended, yesterday's fellowship gathering.
- TRC is doing our first mass mailing inviting locals to worship. Please pray for this outreach. The church would like to thank Karen Griska for all her labors in helping out with the design.

Upcoming Special Events

- The New England Reformed Fellowship's **Bolton Conference** will be held on Friday, October 25th through Saturday, October 26th at the Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, MA 01588. newenglandreformedfellowship.org/2024-conference
- The **Annual Meeting** will be held after church on November 17th.
- Save the date! The 2nd Annual Calvinist **Christmas Party** will be at the Grange on Friday, Dec 6th.

Regular Weekly Events

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Sunday</i> | 9:00 – c.10:00 AM | Sunday School Children's curriculum: KVB Publications Women's Study: Study on cults Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism |
| | 10:30 – c.11:40 AM c.11:40 AM | Worship (Lord's Supper on the 1 st Sunday of the month) Coffee Hour Fellowship |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | 10:30 AM – Noon | Tuesday Classics Study at Pastor Doug's house Overview of Medieval Theology & reading some Aquinas |
| Wednesday | 6:30 – 8:00 PM | Wednesday Bible Study at Pastor Doug's house Origins of the Bible & a Study of 2Peter & Jude |
| Friday | 6:30 - ??? PM | Young Adult Discussion Group at Pastor Doug's house (1 st & 3 rd Fridays) |
| Saturday | morning | Prayer Group at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.) |

ONLINE RESOURCES

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>TRC's Webpage:</i> | TrinityReformedCT.org |
| <i>TRC's Facebook Page:</i> | facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/ |
| <i>TRC's Youtube Channel:</i> | youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT |
| <i>Pastor Doug's</i> | youtube.com/simplyreformed |
| <i>Youtube Channels:</i> | youtube.com/@PilgrimsOfPlunder |

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Elders:</i> | Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor | 860-379-1147 | douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net |
| | Bob Ensminger | 860-485-8738 | robert.ensminger@arthurgrossell.com |
| | Rich Gabelmann | 860-605-7852 | rgabelmann0415@gmail.com |
| | Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek | 203-709-0784 | jhaulenbeek@icloud.com |
| <i>Deacons:</i> | David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters | | |
| <i>Sunday School:</i> | Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell | <i>Music Coordinator:</i> | Cindy Rines |
| <i>Clerk:</i> | Sheryl Gabelmann | <i>Treasurer:</i> | Cindy Rines |

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – Phone: (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – Email: trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

“The Lamb-Lion”

Revelation 5:1-7

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7

October 13, 2024

Introduction

1) When you think (in the visual sense, with your mind’s eyes) of Jesus what image comes to mind?

2) Let’s for a moment ignore the debate about whether we can even have images of Jesus. (Our Puritan Congregational forefathers had a very strong commitment to the 2nd Commandment.)

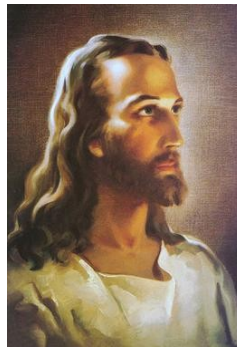
Ex 20:4-6

Lev 19:4; 26:1

Deut 4:15–19; 27:15

3) For most of us, probably some Sunday School picture from the 20th century comes to mind.

a) Such as the “*Head of Christ*” by Warner Sallman (1892-1968). Which “had been reproduced over half a billion times worldwide by the end of the 20th century.”



b) Or, Richard Hook’s (1914-1975) “*Let the Children Come Unto Me.*”

4) For modern Christianity the clear focus has been on the gentleness, kindness and loving nature of our Lord during His earthly incarnation.

a) Which is true! And a great comfort to the saints.

b) As the Lord Jesus tells us: “*Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*” – Matthew 11:29-30

c) Most 20th century pictures of Jesus intentionally draw Jesus’s eyes as a woman.

5) You can tell a lot about an age by what they focus on when it comes to Christ.

6) For example, in medieval times the focus was on the opposite of our modern times – Christ as stern king and judge. Serenely, stoically, enthroned above creation, with all power and majesty, having His enemies beneath His feet eternally damned in the fires of hell. (For example: “The Tympanum” from the Abbey Church of Sainte-Foy in Conques, France, c. 1115 AD)

a) This too is true and a great comfort to the saints!

b) To quote the most referred to OT text in the NT: “*The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’*” – Psalm 110:1



- 7) The mature Christian has a theology that fully holds to both these mental images of Christ and tries to take in all of what the Bible teaches about our Lord.
- a) One of the most critical books for this is the Book of Revelation.
 - b) This is one of the reasons Revelation itself commands that it be preached, heeded, and promises a blessing to all those who hear it. Rev 1:3

Overview of Christ Throughout Time

- 1) The Lord Jesus throughout history has appeared in different ways. Rev:1-8; 21:6; 22:13
- 2) First, always remember, He is fully God. He was never created but is Creator. John 8:58; Col 2:9
 - a) He is the Second Person of the Trinity. Matt 3:17; 28:19
 - b) The Eternal Word of God. John 1:1-5,14,18
- 3) The Eternal Word of God became incarnate (took on human flesh) 2,000 years ago. John 1:14; Rom 1:3
 - a) When we visualize Christ in our mind, this is the Christ we probably see, because it is relatable to what we know.
 - b) He was born, died, raised from the dead, and ascended into heaven.
- 4) Where is Christ now? He is ruling at the right hand of the Father in heaven. Heb 1:3; 12:2
 - a) At some time in the future, He will return to end this age.
 - b) All of creation will be remade into the New Heavens and New Earth, where God will rule directly for all eternity.
 - c) What does this look like? (Christ now in heaven and His return?)
 - d) The best book in the Bible that describes our Lord right now, and in the future, is the Book of Revelation.

One Worthy – Revelation 5:1-5a

- 1) Revelation, chapter 5, a new major revelation is given: *“I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book (or scroll) written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.”* – Rev 5:1
 - a) At the center of all things is God enthroned in sovereign control.
 - b) The scroll represents God’s eternal plan, especially between Christ’s first advent (His incarnation) and His second advent (at the end of this age). Is 46:9-10
 - c) The imagery of the scroll having writing on both sides implies it is a detailed plan. Matt 10:29-31
 - d) To break the seals means not only will God’s plan be revealed but it will also be executed.
- 2) A “strong angel”¹ then proclaims in a loud voice and asks: *“Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?”* – Rev 5:2b
 - a) The Book of Revelation is communicated to the Apostle John by Christ’s angel. (I.e. “His angel”) Rev 1:1
 - b) Throughout Revelation angel(s) speak to John. Rev 10:9-11; 17:1,7,15; 21:9-10; 22:6-11,16
 - c) Revelation is a special revelation directly from heaven for the edification of the church.

¹ As we have talked about before there appears to be different levels to angels. At the very least there are the cherubim/seraphim, the archangels and then angels. Exactly what type of angel this “strong angel” is (who is also mentioned in Rev 10:1; 18:21), the text does not say.

- 3) No created being is able to open the scroll or even to look into it. Rev 5:3
- a) The language of heaven, earth, and under the earth, refers to the entirety of creation throughout time. Deut 5:8; Ps 148:4; 2Cor 12:2; Eph 1:10; Phil 2:10; Rev 5:3,13; 9:1-2,11; 10:6; Rev 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,11; 21:1
- b) There is no creature either in the eternity of heaven, in the sky, on the earth (i.e. the living), in the sea, among the dead, or in hell, that can open the scroll.
- c) John begins to weep because no one was worthy to open the scroll. Rev 5:4
- 4) One of the elders (who represent all the saints) tells John to “stop weeping.” Rev 4:4,10; 5:5-6,8,11,14; Rev 7:11,13; 11:16; 14:3; 19:4
- 5) He declares: “*behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.*” – Rev 5:5b

The Lion of Judah / The Root of David – Revelation 5:5b

- 1) The One who has overcome is (like) “*the Lion.*”
- a) Lions are terrifying, majestic, beasts. Judg 14:18; 2Sam 1:23; 1Kgs 10:18-20; Prov 20:2; Prov 28:1; 30:30; Is 31:4; Ezek 19:1-6; Zeph 3:3
- i) They are apex and keystone predators known for their fierce roars.
- ii) For ancient times they were associated with royalty, the king of the beasts.
- iii) Proverbs 30:30 – “*The lion which is mighty among beasts and does not retreat before any,*”
- b) God is like a Lion.
- i) Numbers 24:9 – “*He couches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him? Blessed is everyone who blesses you, and cursed is everyone who curses you.*”
- ii) God’s voice roars like a lion. Jer 25:30; Hos 11:10; Amos 1:2; 3:8; Joel 3:16
- c) There is an OT prophecy that the tribe of Judah will be like a lion.
- i) When the patriarch Jacob/Israel blesses his sons before His death, He says of Judah (and the tribe from him): “*Judah is a lion’s whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*” – Gen 49:9-10
- ii) Judah will be formidable to his enemies and kings will come from this tribe.
- 2) Thus, the Lion in Revelation 5 “*is from the **tribe of Judah***”. Num 24:17; Is 11:1; Mic 5:2; Matt 2:6; Heb 7:14; Rev 5:5
- 3) The Lion “*is from the tribe of Judah, the **Root of David***” Is 4:2; 9:7; 11:1,10; 53:2; Jer 23:5-6; 33:15-16; Zech 3:8; 6:12-13; Matt 1:1,6; Acts 13:23; Rom 15:12; Rev 5:5; 22:16
- a) The most famous OT king was David.
- b) David replaced the failed king Saul, who was from the tribe of Benjamin. 1Sam 13:15; 1Chr 12:2
- c) David’s kingdom, which is from the tribe of Judah, is prophesied to last forever. 2Sam 7:13,16; Ps 89:36-37

- 4) The Lion “*has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.*”
- a) The One who John sees in Revelation 5 is not just of the correct lineage.
 - i) That is why the New Testament starts with a genealogy.
 - ii) Matthew 1:1 – “*The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:*”
 - b) He also **has** (past tense) overcome.
 - c) This King is victorious.
 - d) Because of this, He alone is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.

The Slain Living Lamb – Revelation 5:6-7

- 1) John now sees He who is worthy, the Messiah (the Anointed One), the Christ – In the midst of God (the Father) enthroned, the four greatest of angels (the cherubim/seraphim), and the elders who represent all of God’s people.
- a) One might think that the Messiah here would appear as a fierce Lion, since that was alluded to in the verse before.
 - b) Instead, we get the most humble of animals: A Lamb.
- 2) The Lamb is “*standing, as if slain.*” – Rev 5:6b Rev 5:9,12; 13:8
- a) The original Greek is more precise than the English.²
 - b) The “as” “does not mean that the Lamb only appeared to have been slaughtered but rather that the Lamb had been slaughtered and was now alive, thus combining . . . death and resurrection.”³
 - c) The Lamb is “standing” meaning He is alive.
 - i) He is also “slain”. Rev 5:9,12; 13:8
 - ii) Showing that His death has abiding value.
 - iii) As John the Baptist proclaimed, “*Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*” – John 1:29b
 - iv) He has conquered death.
- 3) Though Revelation is all about the power and authority of God, especially about His Son, the idea that Christ is the Lamb is found throughout the book.⁴
- a) The OT prophesied that the Messiah is like a Lamb, Is 53:7; John 1:29,36;
Acts 8:32-33; 1Pet 1:19
 who will be killed.
 Isaiah 53:7 – “*He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.*”
 - b) The imagery of the Lamb goes back Ex 12:3-5,21; 2Chr 30:15-17; 2Chr 35:7;
Ezra 6:20; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7; 1Cor 5:7
 even farther – To the Exodus.

² From the text note in the NET Bible: “The phrase behind this translation is ὡς ἐσφαγμένον (hōs ejsphagmenon). The particle ὡς is used in Greek generally for comparison, and in Revelation it is used often to describe the appearance of what the author saw. This phrase does not imply that the Lamb “appeared to have been killed” but in reality was not, because the wider context of the NT shows that in fact the Lamb, i.e., Jesus, was killed. See 13:3 for the only other occurrence of this phrase in the NT.”

³ David E. Aune, Word Biblical Commentary: Revelation 1-4. Vol 52a, pg 353.

⁴ Rev 5:6,8,12-13; 6:1,7,9,16; 7:9-10,14,17; 8:1; 12:11; 13:8,11; 14:1,4,10; 15:3; 17:14; 19:7,9; 21:9,14,22-23,27; 22:1,3.

- i) What did God command His people to do as death came upon the first born of the Egyptians so that God's people would be set free? Ex 11:1ff
 - ii) They were to sacrifice a lamb and take its blood and put it over their doorposts which will cause death to "pass-over" God's people. Ex 12:7
 - iii) And as death/judgment was upon the land, God's people ate a meal, the Passover meal.
 - iv) Of course, Christ is our Passover, thus the true Passover Meal: The Lord's Supper.
- 4) The Lamb of Revelation 5 is meek but also fearsome and powerful.
- a) The Lamb has "seven horns and seven eyes." – Rev 6:6b
 - b) Seven is symbolic of completeness and perfection. Gen 2:2-3; Ex 20:8; Matt 15:32-39
 - c) Horns represent power and authority. Deut 33:17; 1Kgs 22:11; Ps 75:4-5,10; 89:17,24; Jer 48:25; Dan 7:7-8,11,20-24; 8:3-12,20-22; Mic 4:13; (1Enoch 90:6-12,37)
 - d) Eyes represent to see and act. Ps 69:23; Matt 6:22-24
 - e) When horns and eyes are combined it is symbolic of fierce power. Dan 7:8,20; 8:5,21; Zech 1:18
 - f) Remember what the prophet Zechariah, who prophesied during the time of Haggai, said about the rebuilding of the Second Temple.
 - i) Zechariah 3:8-10 – "*Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you—indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch. For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; on one stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave an inscription on it,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. In that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'every one of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree.'*"
 - ii) Zechariah 4:9-10 – "*The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel—these are the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth.*"
 - g) This goes with John's explanation of what the horns & eyes mean - "*which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.*" – Rev 6:6b
- 5) Revelation is written to seven churches in Asia (the western part of modern Turkey) who represent all the church. Rev 1:4
- a) Though it might not seem like it, because of persecution, Christ is amidst His church, like a Man standing among lampstands, or like holding seven stars in One's hand. Rev 1:12-20; 2:1; 3:1; Ex 25:37; 37:23; Zech 4:2
 - b) In Revelation the Holy Spirit is shown as seven spirits representing that God is fully with His people. Rev 1:4; 3:1; Rev 4:5; 5:6
- 6) It is for all these reasons the Lamb, and only the Lamb, can take and open the scroll.
- Rev 5:7 - "*And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*"

Conclusion

- 1) When we think of Christ, and we should think about Him, is it okay to think of the gentle, kind, loving, Jewish man?
 - a) Yes, of course.
 - b) That is biblical.
- 2) If that is the only image of Christ you have, and especially if that is the only image of Christ you want, then you have idol.
- 3) The book to educate us in this is Revelation.
- 4) This is not merely an educational exercise, however.
 - a) It is about the most important thing: Worship.
 - b) How we worship the Triune God.
 - c) What goes through our minds about God that directly influences how we act.
 - d) And the type of faith we will have.
 - e) Whether it is godly and biblical or selfish, godless and thus idolatrous.
- 5) In these seven verses from our sermon text today think of all the images of Christ we receive:
 - a) He alone is worthy to reveal and execute God's sovereign plan.
 - b) He is like a Lion – fierce and powerful.
 - c) He is the fulfillment of prophecy – the One true King.
 - d) He is like a Lamb.
 - i) Yes, gentle.
 - ii) But, also the perfect sacrifice whose death is critical for us to live.
 - e) He has full power, like seven horns.
 - f) His eyes are everywhere.
 - g) And His Spirit has been sent out to all the earth to bring His people home.
- 6) This is someone we should trust in, whom we should follow, and that we should worship.
- 7) 1Peter 1:17-21 – *“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”*