Order of Worship

Convocation Worship | September 10, 2008

Corporate call to worship | Psalm 34:1-3

East side | I will bless the LORD at all times;
West side | his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
East | My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
West | let the humble hear and be glad.
East | Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
West | and let us exalt his name together!

“My Jesus, I Love Thee” (verses 1-3)

Confession and thanksgiving | Psalm 34:4-8

West: | I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
East: | Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.
West: | This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.
East: | The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

All: | Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

“Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken” (verses 4-6)

Scripture reading | Luke 15

Sermon | Mr. Bob Creson

“THE LEAST, THE LAST AND THE LOST”

Worship Note

The phrase “order of worship” doesn’t simply mean that the elements of worship come in a particular order. More than that, it conveys that there is purposefulness in that order. An order of worship, to have integrity, should be “liturgical” in the sense that it is the human response to the divine reality. Often times, the term “dialogical” is used in this context.

For example, as God’s people gather as He has commanded, they call upon God to be present according to His promises (i.e. call to worship). God’s faithful response to that call produces praise from His people (i.e. a hymn of praise). Yet the telling of God’s attributes and works produces a realization of sin, hence a prayer of confession. This confession is met with a word of Gospel assurance – an assurance of pardon. And so on...

So a liturgy, in a more general sense, is a sequence of responses between God and His people that makes sense. While “liturgy” is a word that, for most people, connotes formality and fixedness, more generally it can mean an order which has coherence.

Such a liturgy provides a stark contrast to worship whose elements don’t have clear functions – prayers which are a stew of praise, intercession, confession; songs performed where the performers seem to be speaking for the congregation. By contrast, a good liturgy makes clear who is speaking (God or us) and for what purpose. Only in this way can we be truly communitarian, truly acting as one. Furthermore, a clear order will make sense to those seekers destined to come to faith and fall down beside us to join us in worshiping God (1 Cor. 14:24-25).

Therefore, you will find that chapel service attempts to make clear the purpose of each element of worship and the relationship of the parts to the whole.
Announcements

Today’s Guest Speaker Bob Creson, president of Wycliffe. Wycliffe’s vision is simple — “God’s word, accessible to all people in the language of their heart.” Bible translation has not even begun for one third of the world’s languages representing nearly 200 million people. Another third have had work initiated, but not achieved an adequate level of translation.

Accordance Bible Software is providing today’s free community lunch with a presentation in the Fellowship Hall. Regarded as the best Bible software by many scholars, Accordance is native to Apple and can run on Windows computers. Our Rick Bennett represents Accordance.

Regular community lunch without a formal program will return next week.

“Beyond Google & Wikipedia: Mastering the Library” workshops rescheduled from the orientation conference are today at 1:00 and tomorrow at 4:00 p.m.

Air Force Chaplain Recruiter, Colonel Don Smith, will be on campus in the Student Commons to discuss chaplaincy opportunities in the Air Force this Friday morning, Sept 12.

Women in Ministry is sponsoring a lunch specifically to gather the women students together in the Parlor from noon to 1:00 p.m. this Thursday (tomorrow)

Rev. William “Bing” Davis, RTS-Orlando graduate, former pastor and church planter, is on campus for the next two weeks in his role as Founder and President of Auxilium Network. Auxilium assists churches seeking pastors and pastors in seeking calls. Bing is available in Dr. Waltke’s office to assist students in resume development and candidating.

Chapel Service

September 10, 2008

If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

--Hebrews 11:15-16