

Worship Theme: The Just God

Bulletin theology: *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Ex. 20:16)*

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 112

Q. What is the aim of the ninth commandment?

A. That I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing.

Rather, in court and everywhere else, I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind; these are the very devices the devil uses, and they would call down on me God's intense wrath. I should love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it. And I should do what I can to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.

(indicates to please stand, if able)*

Welcome & Announcements

* Congregational Greeting

OUR OFFERING OF WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Sing of steadfast love and justice;
to the Lord, make music (Ps. 101:1)

**Unison: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being
(Ps. 146:2)**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

***WORSHIP THROUGH SONG:**

All Creatures of our God and King
Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder
Knowing You

Confession of Faith

Rev. Alex Ford

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&As 4-5, 12-13, 16-19

L: What does God's Law require of us?

C: Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments."

L: Can you live up to all this perfectly?

C: No. I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor.

L: According to God's righteous judgment, we deserve punishment both in this world and forever after: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God's favor?

C: God requires that His justice be satisfied. Therefore the claims of His justice must be paid in full, either by ourselves or by another.

L: Can we pay this debt ourselves?

C: Certainly not. Actually, we increase our guilt every day.

L: Why must the mediator be truly human and truly righteous?

C: God's justice demands that human nature, which has sinned, must pay for its sin; but a sinner could never pay for others.

L: Why must He also be true God?

C: So that, by the power of His divinity, He might bear the weight of God's anger in His humanity and earn for us and restore to us righteousness and life.

L: And who is this mediator—true God and at the same time truly human and truly righteous?

C: Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was given to set us completely free and to make us right with God.

L: How do you come to know this?

A: The holy gospel tells me. God himself began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise; later He proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs and prophets, and portrayed it by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the Law; finally, He fulfilled it through His own dear Son.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Church: Lake Trails (Madison)

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS (please remain seated)

Offering Song: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

SERMON

Rev. Alex Ford

Text: James 4:11-12 (p. 1029 in pew Bible)

Sermon Series – THE BOOK OF JAMES: Practical Faith

Title: **"A Practical Humility"**

*Sending Song – Arise, My Soul, Arise

***BENEDICTION**

Postlude