

Date: May 5, 2024

Text: Hebrews 12:1-3

Series: Hebrews: Hope in the Wilderness

Title: No One Runs Alone

Call to Worship

Leader: I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

People: You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Leader: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.

People: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever!

From Revelation 5 and 7

Confession of Sin

Leader: Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

People: Lord Jesus Christ, we are running this race loaded down with sinful desires, idolatrous hearts, and mountains of guilt and shame that we pile on ourselves and each other. Our running takes us far away from the forgiveness, peace, and rest you freely give us. Train our hearts to run to you instead of away from you. Forgive us for all our desperate attempts to save ourselves.

(Silent confession of sin)

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings.

People: Lord, may your love and kindness captivate our minds and imaginations, strengthen our weak faith, and motivate us to leave behind the sins that so easily entangle us. You have won the race for us; now run it with us day by day, moment by moment, and fix our eyes on you instead of on ourselves.

1 Corinthians 9:24, Hebrews 10:19-22, and Prone to Wander (210-211)

Profession of Faith

Leader: God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

People: But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Leader: Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

People: For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

From 2 Corinthians 4