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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
July 9, 2023

**Covenant's Mission Statement**

*"To build a faithful community of joyful disciples."*

**Covenant's Values**

Covenant is **biblical** by affirming the Bible as the authoritative Word of God,  
**connectional** by affiliating with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA),  
**confessional** by adhering to the Westminster Standards,  
**missional** by seeking to spread the Gospel worldwide, and  
**relational** by encouraging the church family to build community.

*"I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me,  
and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me."  
Jeremiah 33:8*

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on Jeremiah 33:8 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 69:32-35

*[32] When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. [33] For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners. [34] Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them. [35] For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it.*

Invocation

Hymn

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam,

***refrain: O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising moon in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of evening, find a voice,  
***refrain***

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
that givest man both warmth and light,  
***refrain***

And all ye men of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care,  
***refrain***

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One,  
***refrain***

*[9] “When a man is afflicted with a leprous disease, he shall be brought to the priest,*

*[10] and the priest shall look. And if there is a white swelling in the skin that has turned the hair white, and there is raw flesh in the swelling,*

*[11] it is a chronic leprous disease in the skin of his body, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean. He shall not shut him up, for he is unclean.*

*[12] And if the leprous disease breaks out in the skin, so that the leprous disease covers all the skin of the diseased person from head to foot, so far as the priest can see,*

*[13] Then the priest shall look, and if the leprous disease has covered all his body, he shall pronounce him clean of the disease; it has all turned white, and he is clean.*

*[14] But when raw flesh appears on him, he shall be unclean.*

*[15] And the priest shall examine the raw flesh and pronounce him unclean. Raw flesh is unclean, for it is a leprous disease.*

*[16] But if the raw flesh recovers and turns white again, then he shall come to the priest,*

*[17] and the priest shall examine him, and if the disease has turned white, then the priest shall pronounce the diseased person clean; he is clean.*

*[45] “The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’*

*[46] He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.*

Congregational Prayer

Carl Monroe, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Peter Bogaards, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

This is the good news that we have received,  
 in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold fast:  
 That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,  
 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day,  
 and that He appeared first to the women, then to Peter,  
 and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.  
 We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.  
 Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;  
 He is our Lord and our God.

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;  
 I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy pow'rful hand;  
 Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,  
 feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;  
 let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;  
 strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield,  
 be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
 Death of death, and hell's Destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;  
 songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee,  
 I will ever give to Thee.

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### Corporate Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven.  
 We have tried to heal ourselves.  
 Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ,  
 we have tried to work off our guilt.  
 We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins.  
 When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction.  
 Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
 we have tried to change through our own efforts.  
 We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower.  
 This has left some of us arrogant.  
 This has left most of us anxious and depressed.  
 Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves.  
 Forgive us for neglecting Your grace.  
 Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

### Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

#### Assurance of Pardon

1John 1:7-9

*[7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,  
 we have fellowship with one another, and the blood  
 of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

*[8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,  
 and the truth is not in us.*

*[9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to  
 forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unright-  
 eousness.*

Afflicted saint, to Christ draw near, your Savior's promise hear,  
His faithful Word, you can believe, that as your days- your strength shall be.

**chorus:** So, sing with joy, afflicted one; the battle's fierce, but the victory's won;  
God shall supply all that you need. Yes, as your days- your strength shall be.

Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the conflict should be long,  
the Lord will make the tempter flee, that as your days- your strength shall be.

**chorus**

Should persecution rage and flame, still trust in your Redeemer's name;  
in fiery trials you shall see, that as your days- your strength shall be.

**chorus**

When called to bear your weighty cross, or sore affliction, pain, or loss,  
or deep distress or poverty, still as your days- your strength shall be.

**chorus**

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Scripture Reading

Mark 1:35-45

Pastor Reed

*[35] And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*

*[36] And Simon and those who were with him searched for him,*

*[37] and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you."*

*[38] And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out."*

*[39] And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.*

*[40] And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean."*

*[41] Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean."*

*[42] And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.*

*[43] And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once,*

*[44] and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them."*

*[45] But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.*

Hymn

*“Grace Greater Than Our Sin”  
 (“Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord”)*

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured,  
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

***chorus:*** *Grace, grace, God’s grace,  
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
grace, grace, God’s grace,  
grace that is greater than all our sin!*

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold,  
threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
grace that is greater, yes grace untold,  
points to the Refuge, the mighty cross.

***chorus***

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,  
what can avail to wash it away?  
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide;  
whiter than snow you may be today.

***chorus***

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
freely bestowed on all who believe.  
You that are longing to see His face,  
will you this moment His grace receive?

***chorus***

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“Jesus’ Priorities in Ministry”*  
Mark 1:35-45

I. Jesus Prayed.

II. Jesus Preached.

III. Jesus Pitied.

# AFFLICTED SAINT, TO CHRIST DRAW NEAR

John Fawcett (1782), Connie Dever (Chorus)

Connie Dever

1. Af - lict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, Your Sa - vior's gra - cious  
 2. Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the con - flict  
 3. Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in your Re -  
 4. When called to bear your weigh - ty cross, or sore af - flic - tion,

pro - mise hear, His faith - ful Word, you can be - lieve, that as your days\_ your  
 should be long, the Lord will make the temp - ter flee, that as your days\_ your  
 deem - er's name; in fier - y tri - als you shall see, that as your days\_ your  
 pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress or po - ver - ty, still as your days\_ your

1. strength shall be. (Repeat to Vs. 2)  
 strength shall be. So, sing with joy, af - flic - ed one; the bat - tle's  
 strength shall be.  
 strength shall be.

fierce, but the vic - tory's won; God shall sup - ply all\_ that you

need. Yes, as your days\_ your strength shall be.

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