

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 6, 2022

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!

Let your glory be over all the earth!

Psalm 108:5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 100 (p. 821 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the LORD is God.

**It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth;
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blessed;
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—that name to us is Love. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: We praise you, our God and King, because you are holy and good. Your unfailing love is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. As we think about your faithfulness to us, we are all the more aware of our faithlessness to you.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and others. We depended on our own strength and stumbled. We leaned on our own understanding and made foolish decisions. We sought the things of this world and failed to seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness.

Leader: Have mercy on us, we pray, and grant us your forgiveness. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and cause us to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

All: We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 34

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days and God of love.
Jehovah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name, forever blest.

The God of Abraham praise, at whose supreme command
From earth I rise, and seek the joys at his right hand.
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and pow'r,
And him my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.

He by himself hath sworn, I on his oath depend;
I shall, on eagles' wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
I shall behold his face, I shall his pow'r adore,
And sing the wonders of his grace forevermore.

The goodly land I see, with peace and plenty blest,
A land of sacred liberty and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow, with mercy crowned.

There dwells the Lord our King, the Lord our Righteousness,
Triumphant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace.
On Zion's sacred height his kingdom he maintains,
And glorious with his saints in light forever reigns.

The whole triumphant host gives thanks to God on high;
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays;
All might and majesty are thine, and endless praise. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 7. *What are the decrees of God?*

A. The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, by which, for his own glory, he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Q. 8. *How does God execute his decrees?*

A. God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Q. 9. *What is the work of creation?*

A. The work of creation is God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Doxology*

Hymn 731

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.

Lord's Prayer*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Hebrews 7

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 100])

Hymn 1

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forthtell,
Come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord ye know is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“God Most High”
Genesis 14:17-24

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 310

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o’er earth and heav’n;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv’n.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God’s right hand till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,
And take his servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit,
Be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

“God Most High”
Genesis 14:17-24

1. By faith, we receive the blessings of God through a Mediator. (vv. 17-20)

Psalm 110; Hebrews 7
1 Timothy 2:5

2. By faith, we give our tithes and offerings to God. (v. 20)

Numbers 18:21
Hebrews 8:6

3. By faith, we reject the temptation of unrighteous wealth and instead trust in the Lord's promises. (vv. 21-24)

John 17:14-19

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.

Monday, November 7

Scripture: Ezekiel 16:42 - 17:24; Hebrews 8:1-13; Psalm 106:13-31; Proverbs 27:7-9

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 33

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, November 8

Scripture: Ezekiel 18:1 - 19:14; Hebrews 9:1-10; Psalm 106:32-48; Proverbs 27:10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 21

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, November 9

Scripture: Ezekiel 20:1-49; Hebrews 9:11-28; Psalm 107:1-43; Proverbs 27:11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 22

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Japan and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, November 10

Scripture: Ezekiel 21:1 – 22:31; Hebrews 10:1-17; Psalm 108:1-13; Proverbs 27:12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 23

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, November 11

Scripture: Ezekiel 23:1-49; Hebrews 10:18-39; Psalm 109:1-31; Proverbs 27:13

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 24

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

Saturday, November 12

Scripture: Ezekiel 24:1 – 26:21; Hebrews 11:1-16; Psalm 110:1-7; Proverbs 27:14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 25

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, November 13

Scripture: Ezekiel 27:1 – 28:26; Hebrews 11:17-31; Psalm 111:1-10; Proverbs 27:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 26

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.

Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize

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LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Genesis 14:17-24, we learn how Abram continued to trust in the Lord through his interaction with a mediator named Melchizedek. This man was the king of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. We learn later in Psalm 110 and in the book of Hebrews that Melchizedek was a type of Christ—he prefigured what Christ would do for his people. Iain Duguid, in his book *Living in the Gap Between Promise and Reality*, explains 3 connections between Melchizedek and Jesus:

Melchizedek's priesthood was established not on the basis of heredity but office. In other words, Melchizedek was a priest not simply because his father had been one, but because he was king of Salem. It was all part of his job description. Similarly, Jesus was not a priest because of heredity—he did not come from the priestly tribe of Levi—but because he was the Messiah, the King, the Son of David. In that sense, Jesus was a priest after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 6:20).

His was an eternal priesthood. There is no mention of Melchizedek having any successor. His priestly office, as far as the Bible is concerned, was fulfilled in this one man. For the Levitical priesthood, however, there was a great deal of concern to ensure a proper succession. Sacrifices had to be offered continually, and Levitical priests had the habit of dying like other people. But this was not true of Jesus. He needed no successors because his sacrifice was offered once and for all. Furthermore, having been raised from the dead, he has been able to intercede for his people perpetually.

His was a superior priesthood. Abram submitted himself to Melchizedek and gave him a tithe. This was particularly striking, since elsewhere Abram acted as the priest for his own family. Normally he built his own altars and offered his own sacrifices. But here he is, recognizing the priesthood of another. In a sense, then, Levi, though yet unborn, submitted to Melchizedek in the person of his ancestor and so recognized the superiority of his priesthood. Thus, Jesus, the priest after the order of Melchizedek, holds a priesthood that is superior to the Levitical priesthood.

1. For review, read Genesis 14:1-16. How did Abram's rescue of Lot point forward to how Christ would rescue his people from Satan, sin, and death?
2. Read Genesis 14:17-20. What do Melchizedek's actions reveal about his faith in the one true God?
3. Read Hebrews 7 and consider the connections that Iain Duguid makes between Melchizedek and Jesus. How does knowing that Jesus is your superior Great High Priest give you comfort and assurance?
4. Why did Abram give a tenth of everything to Melchizedek in Genesis 14:20? What does this reveal about Abram's faith? What does it teach you about tithing?
5. Why did Abram refuse to personally receive anything for himself from the king of Sodom in Genesis 14:21-24? What does this teach you about rejecting the temptation of ungodly wealth?