

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 1, 2023

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

Psalm 89:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 72:1-19 (p. 810 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.

He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

In his days the righteous will flourish, prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him;

the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts.

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.

He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him.

May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.

Let grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway.

Let its fruit flourish like Lebanon; let it thrive like the grass of the field.

May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.

All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and Amen.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able. The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we come to you burdened by guilt and shame as we remember how often we have sinned against you and others.

All: We confess that we are guilty of pride and unbelief, of anger and lust. We have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by wasting your good gifts to us. Our transgressions are ever before us, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant that as we hear your assurance of pardon, we would accept, receive, and rest on Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life.

All: We pray this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

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

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 342

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever,
And her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation
Pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
In glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, today:
With thy wonted loving-kindness
Hear thy people as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls alway.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
What they ask of thee to gain,
What they gain from thee forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in thy glory
Evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory,
While unending ages run. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 24. *How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?*

A. Christ executes the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Q. 25. *How does Christ execute the office of a priest?*

A. Christ executes the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Q. 26. *How does Christ execute the office of a king?*

A. Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

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*

Genesis 16

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 72])

Hymn 439

Christ Shall Have Dominion

Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be;
They that wilds inhabit shall their worship bring,
Kings shall render tribute, nations serve our King.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be.*

When the needy seek him, he will mercy show;
Yea, the weak and helpless shall his pity know;
He will surely save them from oppression's might,
For their lives are precious in his holy sight.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be.*

Ever and forever shall his name endure,
Long as suns continue it shall stand secure;
And in him forever all men shall be blest,
And all nations hail him King of kings confessed.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be.*

Unto God Almighty joyful Zion sings;
He alone is glorious, doing wondrous things.
Evermore, ye people, bless his glorious name,
His eternal glory through the earth proclaim.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be. Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The God Who Sees Me”
Genesis 16

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 498

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.*

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict’ry wins.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.*

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o’er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.*

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
Storms about me, night o’ertakes me, he, my pilot, hears my cry.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.*

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end. 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

“The God Who Sees Me”
Genesis 16

1. So Much Sin (vv. 1-6)

Unbelief (Galatians 4:21-31)

Tempting Others

Failing to Lead

Adultery

Pride

Blaming Others

2. So Much More Grace (vv. 7-16)

Romans 5:20-21

Psalms 139

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, January 2

Scripture: Genesis 3:1 - 4:26; Matthew 2:13 - 3:6; Psalm 2:1-12; Proverbs 1:7-9

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 8

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

Tuesday, January 3

Scripture: Genesis 5:1 - 7:24; Matthew 3:7 - 4:11; Psalm 3:1-8; Proverbs 1:10-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 69

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

Wednesday, January 4

Scripture: Genesis 8:1 - 10:32; Matthew 4:12-25; Psalm 4:1-8; Proverbs 1:20-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 70

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

Thursday, January 5

Scripture: Genesis 11:1 - 13:4; Matthew 5:1-26; Psalm 5:1-12; Proverbs 1:24-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 71

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

Friday, January 6

Scripture: Genesis 13:5 - 15:21; Matthew 5:27-48; Psalm 6:1-10; Proverbs 1:29-33

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 72

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

Saturday, January 7

Scripture: Genesis 16:1 - 18:15; Matthew 6:1-24; Psalm 7:1-17; Proverbs 2:1-5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 73

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

Sunday, January 8

Scripture: Genesis 18:16 - 19:38; Matthew 6:25 - 7:14; Psalm 8:1-9; Proverbs 2:6-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 74

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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Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

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LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

As Moses, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, describes the sinful actions of Abram and Sarai in trying to “help” God fulfill his promises, we are reminded of our need for God’s grace and mercy. God’s law exposes our sin, and through the work of the Spirit, he causes us to run to Christ for grace and salvation. Sorrow for sin is actually a merciful work of God in our souls. Dale Ralph Davis, in his commentary on Genesis, explains that as we consider the “disappointing people that the covenant people are” in the Bible, and as we consider our own faults and failures:

It should bring us to mourn (Matt. 5:4). It is not morbid but healthy to grieve over the evil that clings to us. I find it fascinating that when Yahweh depicts his restored people, he says of them: “And you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations” (Ezek. 36:31). That text won’t charm you if you’re into “feeling good about yourself” or think that you need to cuddle a “good self-image.” But don’t try to sweep Ezekiel 36:31 aside as if it’s something more disposable from the Old Testament. No, the context in Ezekiel 36 describes Yahweh’s restored people, people to whom he will give a new heart and a new spirit. And then he fleshes out what people who have a new heart and a new spirit will be like—they will loathe themselves for their iniquities and their abominations (verse 31). This new sadness is the evidence of a new heart and a new spirit! Yes, we need to do more than mourn—the New Testament speaks also of ‘mortifying’ sin (cf. Col. 3:5), but it starts with this mourning and loathing ourselves (much as current psychobabble may oppose it); you ought to carry about with you as a Christian a proper sadness, a holy despondency, a healthy broken-heartedness over your Adam nature and the ruin it still inflicts.

1. For review, scan the chapter and section headings in your Bible from Genesis 1-15. As you do, try to remember how the elements of creation, the covenant of works, the covenant of grace, the covenant with Noah, and the covenant of Abram build upon each other to reveal God’s plan of redemption. How would you summarize these opening chapters of the Bible?
2. Read Genesis 16:1-6 and consider the sins that are described. How does the strife that these sins bring in Abram’s family serve as a caution for us as Christians?
3. Read Genesis 16:7-12. What did God reveal to Hagar?
4. What is the significance of the name that Hagar used for the Lord in Genesis 16:13-14? What does this reveal about God and his involvement in our lives?
5. What do you learn from Genesis 16 about the importance of waiting on the Lord’s timing and trusting in his Word? Can you think of a time in your life when you did not do this and experienced the bad consequences of your decision? Can you think of a time in your life when you did wait on the Lord and you saw his blessing as a result?