

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 29, 2023

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 97 (p. 820 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;

let the distant shores rejoice.

Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.

His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

**All who worship images are put to shame, those who boast in idols—
worship him, all you gods!**

Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments, O LORD.

For you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

Let those who love the LORD hate evil,

for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
For thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me:
And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God and Father, you are holy and perfect. We feel unworthy to enter into your presence because we again have failed to keep all your commandments.

All: We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: Our sins and failures weigh heavy on our hearts, and we feel how our fellowship with you has suffered. Forgive us and restore us, we pray, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who loves us and gave himself for us.

All: Thank you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 19:12-38

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 Nicene Creed (p. 846)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, 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*

Luke 17:20-37

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

“Trust in the Judge Who Bore God’s Judgment”
Genesis 19:12-38

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 660

O God Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his communion,
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings. Amen.*

SERMON NOTES

“Trust in the Judge Who Bore God’s Judgment”
Genesis 19:12-38

2 Peter 2:4-8

1. There will be a day of judgment.

Jude 7

2 Peter 3:9-10

Acts 17:30-31

2. Prepare for it with urgency.

Prepare yourself.

Prepare your family. (Luke 17:32)

Prepare your neighbors.

3. Prepare for it by trusting in Christ, who bore God’s judgment for his people.

John 6:44

2 Corinthians 5:21

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 52: *How does Christ’s return to judge the living and the dead comfort you?*

In all my distress and persecution I turn my eyes to the heavens and confidently await as judge the very one who has already stood trial in my place before God and so has removed the whole curse from me. All his enemies and mine he will condemn to everlasting punishment: but me and all his chosen ones he will take along with him into the joy and glory of heaven.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, January 30

Scripture: Exodus 10:1 - 12:13; Matthew 20:1-28; Psalm 25:1-15; Proverbs 6:6-11

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 12

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

Tuesday, January 31

Scripture: Exodus 12:14 - 13:16; Matthew 20:29 - 21:22; Ps. 25:16-22; Prov. 6:12-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 93

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

Wednesday, February 1

Scripture: Exodus 13:17 - 15:18; Matthew 21:23-46; Psalm 26:1-12; Proverbs 6:16-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 94

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

Thursday, February 2

Scripture: Exodus 15:19 - 17:7; Matthew 22:1-33; Psalm 27:1-6; Proverbs 6:20-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 95

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

Friday, February 3

Scripture: Exodus 17:8 - 19:15; Matthew 22:34 - 23:12; Ps. 27:7-14; Proverbs 6:27-35

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 96

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

Saturday, February 4

Scripture: Exodus 19:16 - 21:21; Matthew 23:13-39; Psalm 28:1-9; Proverbs 7:1-5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 97

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

Sunday, February 5

Scripture: Exodus 21:22 - 23:13; Matthew 24:1-28; Psalm 29:1-11; Proverbs 7:6-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 98

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

While some religions and philosophies teach that history is cyclical, the Bible teaches that history is linear. History began at creation, and it will culminate at Christ's return. For us as Christians, Christ's return is our great hope and joy. It is the day when he will make it on earth as it is in heaven, and when we will see his face and behold his glory. Westminster Larger Catechism Q/A 90 summarizes what we long for:

Q. 90. *What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?*

At the day of judgment, the righteous, being caught up to Christ in the clouds, shall be set on his right hand, and there openly acknowledged and acquitted, shall join with him in the judging of reprobate angels and men, and shall be received into heaven, where they shall be fully and forever freed from all sin and misery; filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul, in the company of innumerable saints and holy angels, but especially in the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity. And this is the perfect and full communion which the members of the invisible church shall enjoy with Christ in glory, at the resurrection and day of judgment.

1. For review, read Genesis 19:1-11. What was Sodom's notorious sin, and how do you know this? What are some ways people have tried to reinterpret this account to try to downplay the depravity of Sodom? What motives might they have for doing this?
2. Read Genesis 19:12-38. What do you learn from this passage about the danger and certainty of God's judgment? How do 2 Peter 2:4-8 and 3:9-10 further reveal these truths from Genesis 19?
3. How can you prepare yourself, your family, and your neighbors for Christ's return?
4. What is the significance of the fact that the angels "seized" Lot and his family in Genesis 19:16? How does this compare with what Jesus says in John 6:44? What does all of this reveal about God's sovereign grace?
5. What does it mean that Christ is both the Judge of all people and the one who bore God's judgment for his people? How does maturing in your faith in Christ help you gain greater assurance and peace as you consider the judgment to come?