

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!

Let your glory be over all the earth!

Psalm 57:5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 1 (p. 785 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

**But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.**

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

**Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff that the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

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

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

Forever Settled in the Heavens

Forever settled in the heav'ns,
Thy word, O Lord, shall firmly stand;
Thy faithfulness shall never fail;
The earth abides at thy command.

Thy word and works unmoved remain,
Thine ev'ry purpose to fulfill;
All things are thine and thee obey,
And all as servants wait thy will.

I should have perished in my woe
Had not I loved thy law divine;
That law I never can forget;
O save me, Lord, for I am thine.

The wicked would destroy my soul,
But in thy truth is refuge sure;
Exceeding broad is thy command,
And in perfection shall endure. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we approach your throne of grace, confident that we are being heard because of Christ's mediation and the Holy Spirit's intercession.

All: Forgive our sins, we pray, and help us to put off greed, pride, anger, unbelief, covetousness, impurity, and all the sinful, earthly thoughts and desires that still have influence in our lives.

Leader: Through the power of your Holy Spirit, cause us to put on our new nature, clothing ourselves with compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other as we have been forgiven.

All: Above all, cause us to put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony, as we together await the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 15

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 away.

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. 27. *What was Christ's humiliation?*

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Q. 28. *What is Christ's exaltation?*

A. Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the Last Day.

Q. 29. *How do we take part in the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. We take part in the redemption purchased by Christ by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

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*

Genesis 17

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

“God to Us and to Our Children”
Genesis 17

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 415

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

Baptized into your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly, among your seed, your chosen host.
Buried with Christ and dead to sin: your Spirit e’er shall live within.

My loving Father, me you’ve taken fore’er to be your child and heir;
My faithful Savior, me you’ve given your righteous, holy life to share;
O Holy Spirit, you will be a comfort, guide, and help to me.

And I have vowed to fear and love you, and to obey you, Lord, alone;
Because the Holy Spirit moved me I dared to pledge myself your own,
Renouncing sin to keep the faith and war with evil unto death.

My faithful God, your Word fails never, your cov’nant surely will abide;
Oh, cast me not away forever, should I transgress it on my side!
Though I have oft my soul defiled, in love forgive, restore your child.

Yes, all I am and love most dearly I offer now, O Lord, to you.
Oh, let me make my vows sincerely, and what I say, help me to do.
Let naught within me, naught I own, serve any will but yours alone.

And never let my purpose falter, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
But keep me faithful to your altar, till you shall call me from my post.
So unto you I live and die and praise you evermore on high. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

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,
 O praise him, O praise him,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, January 9

Scripture: Genesis 20:1 - 22:24; Matthew 7:15-29; Psalm 9:1-12; Proverbs 2:16-22

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 9

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

Tuesday, January 10

Scripture: Genesis 23:1 - 24:51; Matthew 8:1-17; Psalm 9:13-20; Proverbs 3:1-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 75

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

Wednesday, January 11

Scripture: Genesis 24:52 - 26:16; Matthew 8:18-34; Psalm 10:1-15; Proverbs 3:7-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 76

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

Thursday, January 12

Scripture: Genesis 26:17 - 27:46; Matthew 9:1-17; Psalm 10:16-18; Proverbs 3:9-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 77

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

Friday, January 13

Scripture: Genesis 28:1 - 29:35; Matthew 9:18-38; Psalm 11:1-7; Proverbs 3:11-12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 78

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

Saturday, January 14

Scripture: Genesis 30:1 - 31:16; Matthew 10:1-23; Psalm 12:1-8; Proverbs 3:13-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 79

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

Sunday, January 15

Scripture: Genesis 31:17 - 32:12; Matthew 10:24 - 11:6; Psalm 13:1-6; Prov. 3:16-18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 80

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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EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

Greeting and Call to Worship*

Psalm 96:1-6

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

All: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Hymn*

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” Hymn 38

Congregational Confession of Sin

Gracious God, we acknowledge and confess that we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have walked in darkness rather than living according to what you have revealed to us in your holy Word. Forgive us, we pray. Enable us by your Holy Spirit to put off sin and to put on Christ. Strengthen us in our fight against sin, and empower us to act, speak, and think in ways that glorify you, for we ask in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Hymn

“Fairest Lord Jesus” Hymn 170

Scripture Reading*

Mark 4:1-20

Hymn

“I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew” Hymn 466

Prayer

Sermon

The Spirit-Empowered Witness Believes
in God’s Sovereign Election
Acts 13:42 - 14:7

Pastor Ben Muresan

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Hymn*

“By Grace I Am an Heir of Heaven” Hymn 695

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.