

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 5, 2023

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

Psalm 37:39

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 65 (p. 807 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion;

to you our vows will be fulfilled.

O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come.

When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior,
the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,

who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

Those living far away fear your wonders;

where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.

**The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.**

You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

**The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.**

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! Amen.*

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we approach your throne of grace repenting of the sins we have committed. You know our hearts better than we do. Nothing in all creation is hidden from you. Everything is open and exposed before you, and you are the one to whom we are accountable.

All: We confess that we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.

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: 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

1 Peter 2:22-25

Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

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

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 715

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown:
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
Give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home;
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;
There forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 19. *What is the misery of that estate into which man fell?*

A. All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

Q. 20. *Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?*

A. God, having out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

Q. 21. *Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?*

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man, in two distinct natures, and one Person forever.

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.

❖ *Tithes and offerings may be placed in the box at the entrance to the sanctuary or given online through our church's website.*

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Genesis 37

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 65]) (refer to the bulletin insert for music)

Praise Waits for Thee in Zion

Praise waits for thee in Zion; all men shall worship there
And pay their vows before thee, O God who hearest prayer.

Our sins rise up against us, prevailing day by day,
But thou wilt show us mercy and take our guilt away.

How blest the man thou callest and bringest near to thee,
That in thy courts forever his dwelling place may be;
He shall within thy temple be satisfied with grace
And filled with all the goodness of thy most holy place.

O God of our salvation, since thou dost love the right,
Thou wilt an answer send us in wondrous deeds of might.

In all earth's habitations, on all the boundless sea,
Man finds no sure reliance, no peace, apart from thee.

Thy might sets fast the mountains; strength girds thee evermore

To calm the raging peoples and still the ocean's roar.

Thy majesty and greatness are through all lands confessed,
And joy on earth thou sendest afar, from east to west.

To bless the earth thou sendest from thine abundant store

The waters of the springtime, enriching it once more.

The seed by thee provided is sown o'er hill and plain,
And thou with gentle showers dost bless the springing grain.

The year with good thou crownest, the earth thy mercy fills,

The wilderness is fruitful, and joyful are the hills;

With corn the vales are covered, the flocks in pastures graze;

All nature joins in singing a joyful song of praise. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,
All thy lambs in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand;
None can pluck them from thy hand.

May they praise thee every day,
Gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessed ones above,
Happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,
Teach thy lambs thy voice to hear;
Suffer not their steps to stray
From the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest may they go,
Walking in thy steps below;
Then, before thy Father's throne,
Savior, claim them for thine own. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Whatever Our God Ordains Is Right”
Genesis 37

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 108

Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right

Whate'er my God ordains is right:
His holy will abideth;
I will be still whate'er he doth,
And follow where he guideth.
He is my God; though dark my road,
He holds me that I shall not fall:
Wherefore to him I leave it all.

Whate'er my God ordains is right:
He never will deceive me;
He leads me by the proper path;
I know he will not leave me.
I take, content, what he hath sent;
His hand can turn my griefs away,
And patiently I wait his day.

Whate'er my God ordains is right:
Though now this cup, in drinking,
May bitter seem to my faint heart,
I take it, all unshrinking.
My God is true; each morn anew
Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart,
And pain and sorrow shall depart.

Whate'er my God ordains is right:
Here shall my stand be taken;
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
Yet am I not forsaken.
My Father's care is round me there;
He holds me that I shall not fall:
And so to him I leave it all. 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.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, November 6

Scripture: Ezekiel 14:12 - 16:41; Hebrews 7:18-28; Psalm 106:1-12; Proverbs 27:4-6

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 19

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

Tuesday, November 7

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

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 12

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

Wednesday, 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 13

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

Thursday, 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 14

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

Friday, 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 15

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

Saturday, 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 16

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

Sunday, 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 17

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

Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Genesis 37 marks the beginning of the story of Joseph's life, and more importantly, how God used Joseph to protect the chosen people from whom the Savior would be born. Through his wise and sovereign providence, God ordained every detail and used even the sinful actions and intentions of humans to accomplish his will. Joseph's story reveals God's power and also his grace because through it all he was bringing about his plan to send a Savior who would save us from our sins. Kent Hughes, in his commentary on Genesis, writes:

Ultimately, and above all, the story of Joseph is about God working his will through the everyday events of life. There are no miracles here. God does not suspend his natural laws to make things happen. The story is about the hidden but sure way of God. God's hidden hand arranges everything without show or explanation or violating the nature of things. God is involved in all events and directs all things to their appointed end. Toward the conclusion of the great narrative, when Joseph reveals himself to his brothers, he says just this: "And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Genesis 45:7, 8). What a God he is—because he is not just a God of the extraordinary but a God of the ordinary. His power and infinitude take both the good and evil actions of Joseph's family, of Pharaoh and his servants, and of passersby and uses their actions for good (Genesis 50:20).

1. Read Genesis 37:1-11. How is Jacob's family portrayed? Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?
2. Read Genesis 37:12-36. What events recorded in these verses reveal God's providence in getting Joseph to Egypt.
3. The Bible and the Westminster Standards teach that God "neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin," and yet we see how he uses even the sinful actions and intentions of people to accomplish his will. What does this reveal about God, especially considering what Joseph says in Genesis 50:20? How does this comfort you?
4. Read Acts 2:22-24. How does the Apostle Peter connect God's decree and the sinful actions and intentions of people in the crucifixion of Jesus?
5. What connections do you see between Joseph and Jesus?