

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

John 6:33

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 84 (p. 814 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

**My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—

a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob.

Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor;

no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

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

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

Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands

Amidst us our Beloved stands,
And bids us view his pierced hands;
Points to the wounded feet and side,
Blest emblems of the Crucified.

What food luxurious loads the board,
When at his table sits the Lord!
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet,
When Jesus deigns the guests to meet!

If now, with eyes defiled and dim,
We see the signs, but see not him;
O may his love the scales displace,
And bid us see him face to face!

O glorious Bridegroom of our hearts,
Your present smile a heav'n imparts!
O lift the veil, if veil there be,
Let every saint your glory see! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: O Lord our God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. As we consider your glory and holiness, we are humbled and readily acknowledge our sinfulness.

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: 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

John 6:37-39

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 20

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 456

By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and Boundless

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No; then this word must true remain:
By grace you too shall heav'n obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in his love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace! O mark this word of promise
When you are by your sins oppressed,
When Satan plagues your troubled conscience,
And when your heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend
God by his grace to you will send.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
So long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in his Word our God commands,
What our whole faith must rest upon,
Is grace alone, grace in his Son. 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*

Hebrews 11:8-16

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 89:1-4, 14-18, 28-29])

Hymn 99

My Song Forever Shall Record

All: My song forever shall record
The tender mercies of the Lord;
Your faithfulness will I proclaim,
And every age shall know your name.

Men: I sing of mercies that endure,
Forever builded firm and sure,
Of faithfulness that never dies,
Established changeless in the skies.

Ladies: Behold God's truth and grace displayed,
For he has faithful cov'nant made,
And he has sworn that David's son
Shall ever sit upon his throne:

Men: "For him my mercy shall endure,
My cov'nant made with him is sure;
His throne and race I will maintain
Forever, while the heav'ns remain."

Ladies: Almighty God, your lofty throne
Has justice for its cornerstone,
And shining bright before your face
Are truth and love and boundless grace.

Men: With blessing is the nation crowned
Whose people know the joyful sound;
They in the light, O Lord, shall live,
The light your face and favor give.

Ladies: Your name with gladness they confess,
Exalted in your righteousness;
Their fame and might to you belong,
For in your favor they are strong.

All: All glory unto God we yield,
Jehovah is our help and shield;
All praise and honor we will bring
To Israel's Holy One, our King. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“God Is with You in All that You Do”
Genesis 21:22-34

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 100

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity! 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

“God Is with You in All that You Do”
Genesis 21:22-34

Since God is with us... (Matthew 28:20)

1. Let us trust in God instead of fearing man.

Matthew 10:28

2. Let us bless others instead of sinning against them.

Genesis 12:1-3

Matthew 5:9

Romans 12:18

Hebrews 12:15

3. Let us live with confidence instead of being anxious about the future.

Hebrews 11:10

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, February 27

Scripture: Leviticus 20:22 - 22:16; Mark 9:1-29; Psalm 43:1-5; Proverbs 10:18

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 16

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

Tuesday, February 28

Scripture: Leviticus 22:17 - 23:44; Mark 9:30 - 10:12; Psalm 44:1-8; Proverbs 10:19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 10

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

Wednesday, March 1

Scripture: Leviticus 24:1 - 25:46; Mark 10:13-31; Psalm 44:9-26; Proverbs 10:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 11

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

Thursday, March 2

Scripture: Leviticus 25:47 - 27:13; Mark 10:32-52; Psalm 45:1-17; Proverbs 10:22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 12

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

Friday, March 3

Scripture: Leviticus 27:14 - Numbers 1:54; Mark 11:1-26; Psalm 46:1-11; Prov. 10:23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 13

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

Saturday, March 4

Scripture: Numbers 2:1 - 3:51; Mark 11:27 - 12:17; Psalm 47:1-9; Proverbs 10:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 14

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

Sunday, March 5

Scripture: Numbers 4:1 - 5:31; Mark 12:18-37; Psalm 48:1-14; Proverbs 10:26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 15

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 21:22-34, we see Abraham's spiritual maturity in dealing with Abimelech about a dispute for water rights. In the previous chapter, Abraham felt he had to lie to Abimelech in order to protect his and Sarah's life. Now in Genesis 21, Abraham is confident, bold, and sure. What caused this change? The main cause can be linked to the birth of Isaac, the son whom God had promised. Isaac's birth revealed God's covenant faithfulness, which caused Abraham to rest all the more securely in God's power and care for him and his family. As Christians, we are called to live with the same kind of assurance in this world, since we know that Jesus, the greater Isaac, was born and through his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, he revealed God's covenant faithfulness in the most profound way possible. God is with us in all that we do, and through Christ, we will be with him forever in his Kingdom. Richard Belcher writes in his commentary on Genesis:

The promises that God made to Abraham, and that were confirmed in the covenant of Genesis 15, are being fulfilled in the life of Abraham. These blessings promised to Abraham are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ and the New Covenant, so that even Gentiles who believe in Jesus are children of Abraham (Galatians 3:29) and receive the blessings of the covenant. Although now we have received only a down payment of all the blessings God has in store for us—which includes all the spiritual blessings that come from union with Christ—we are assured that the fullness of covenant blessing will be ours when Jesus returns. This fullness of blessing will include a complete restoration of creation, including our physical and spiritual lives in the new heavens and the new earth.

1. For review, read Genesis 21:1-7. What was so special about Isaac's birth? What does Isaac's birth reveal about God's covenant faithfulness?
2. Read Genesis 21:22-24. Why did Abimelech track down Abraham in order to make a covenant with him?
3. Read Genesis 21:25-32. Why were water rights important to Abraham, and how did his interaction with Abimelech reveal his trust in the Lord?
4. What do you learn about how to deal with unbelievers from Abraham's interaction with Abimelech?
5. What is the significance of Abraham's action of planting a tree in verse 33? How does it reveal his faith in the Lord's promises?