

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!

Psalm 113:2

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 89:1-4, 14-18, 28-29

- 1 I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
- 2 **For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**
- 3 You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
- 4 **‘I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.’ ”**
- 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
- 15 **Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,**
- 16 who exult in your name all the day
and in your righteousness are exalted.
- 17 **For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favor our horn is exalted.**
- 18 For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.
- 28 **My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.**
- 29 I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.

* *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 is hidden from your sight.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by wasting your good gifts to us. We have hurt others and ourselves by our sins, and we are not worthy to be called your children.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and cleanse us from our sins. Work in us by your Word and Spirit, and give us both the desire and the power to do what pleases you.

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

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

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 Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 35. *What is sanctification?*

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, by which we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness.

Q. 36. *What are the benefits that in this life accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?*

A. The benefits that in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are: assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and perseverance to the end.

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*

John 17

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.

Installation of Women's Ministry Leaders

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Rudy Manrique

“Am I Going To Make It?”
Psalm 121

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 707 (sung to the tune of *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!*)

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition, God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior too;
Human hearts and looks deceive me; thou art not, like man, untrue;
And, while thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends may shun me; show thy face, and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, 'twill but drive me to thy breast;
Life with trials hard may press me, heav'n will bring me sweeter rest.
O 'tis not in grief to harm me while thy love is left to me;
O 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with thee.

Take, my soul, thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care;
Joy to find in ev'ry station something still to do or bear;
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, what a Father's smile is thine,
What a Savior died to win thee: child of heav'n, shouldst thou repine?

Hasten on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer;
Heav'n's eternal day's before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;
Hope soon change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise. 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, February 6

Scripture: Exodus 23:14 - 25:40; Matthew 24:29-51; Psalm 30:1-12; Proverbs 7:24-27

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 13

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

Tuesday, February 7

Scripture: Exodus 26:1 - 27:21; Matthew 25:1-30; Psalm 31:1-8; Proverbs 8:1-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 99

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

Wednesday, February 8

Scripture: Exodus 28:1-43; Matthew 25:31 - 26:13; Psalm 31:9-18; Proverbs 8:12-13

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 100

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

Thursday, February 9

Scripture: Exodus 29:1 - 30:10; Matthew 26:14-46; Psalm 31:19-24; Proverbs 8:14-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 101

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

Friday, February 10

Scripture: Exodus 30:11 - 31:18; Matthew 26:47-68; Psalm 32:1-11; Proverbs 8:27-32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 102

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

Saturday, February 11

Scripture: Exodus 32:1 - 33:23; Matthew 26:69 - 27:14; Psalm 33:1-11; Prov. 8:33-36

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 103

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

Sunday, February 12

Scripture: Exodus 34:1 - 35:9; Matthew 27:15-31; Psalm 33:12-22; Proverbs 9:1-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 104

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

followtruth99@gmail.com

Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

ebyuganda@gmail.com

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Our sermon passage this Lord's Day is Psalm 121. It goes without saying that the Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120-134) are some of the most well-known in Scripture. In fact, Pastor Ben always quotes Psalm 121:1-2 as he begins the call to worship every Lord's Day service.

Most scholars agree these psalms were sung as the Israelites journeyed toward Jerusalem to celebrate the annual festivals prescribed by God in the Old Covenant (Lev. 23). The background to Psalm 121 were these annual festivals. But it also describes the arduous and hazardous conditions the Israelites had to endure to get to Jerusalem, where God's presence resided at the temple. The road to Jerusalem was full of danger. And so, Psalm 121 assured the Israelites that God would safely protect them along their pilgrimage.

And the same is true for New Covenant believers. Although we are no longer required to travel to a physical location, like the temple in Jerusalem, to worship the Lord, the road to the heavenly Jerusalem is often dangerous and challenging. However, Psalm 121 assures believers that they will make it to their final destination—the marriage supper of the Lamb, not because of their own strength, but because of God's preserving grace in what Jesus Christ accomplished for his people.

1. What is the significance of the subtitle: "A Song of Ascents"? According to the sermon, what makes the subtitle of Psalm 121 different from the rest of the Psalms of Ascents? How does this relate to you and your earthly pilgrimage?
2. Read Psalm 121:1-2. What are some of the ways unbelievers answer the psalmist's question in verse 1? Do you have false helps that sometimes take your eyes off your true help? What is the significance of the Lord being your helper? Take some time to ask the Lord to help you rely solely on him when all other helps fail.
3. As you think about your life before and after you become a Christian, what are some of the ways God has kept you? Even if you have been a believer your whole life, what are some of the ways you can thank and praise the Lord for his protection?
4. Read Psalm 121. What is the emphasis the psalmist wants his readers to take away as they read this psalm? (Hint: it's the word the psalmist constantly repeats). In light of this, how does this relate to Adam who was called to keep the Garden of Eden (see Genesis 2:15)? What is the parallel between Adam's reward and the Lord being our keeper (v. 5)?