

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 30, 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 27 (p. 793 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.

I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

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

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

The Tender Love a Father Has

The tender love a father has for all his children dear,
Such love the Lord bestows on them who worship him in fear.

The Lord remembers we are dust, and all our frailty knows;
Man's days are like the tender grass, and as the flow'r he grows.

The flow'r is withered by the wind that smites with blighting breath;
So man is quickly swept away before the blast of death.

Unchanging is the love of God, from age to age the same,
Displayed to all who do his will and reverence his name.

Those who his gracious cov'nant keep the Lord will ever bless;
Their children's children shall rejoice to see his righteousness. 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 your eyes, 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. Our sins and failures weigh heavy on our hearts, and we feel how our fellowship with you has suffered. Free us from both the penalty and power of sin, so that it will not be master over us, and strengthen us to live in holiness and righteousness to the glory of your holy name.

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*

Genesis 25:1-18

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 706

Jesus Lives, and So Shall I

Jesus lives, and so shall I.
Death! thy sting is gone forever!
He who deigned for me to die,
Lives, the bands of death to sever.
He shall raise me from the dust:
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives and reigns supreme;
And, his kingdom still remaining,
I shall also be with him,
Ever living, ever reigning.
God has promised; be it must:
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives, and by his grace,
Vict'ry o'er my passions giving,
I will cleanse my heart and ways,
Ever to his glory living.
Me he raises from the dust:
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives! I know full well
Naught from him my heart can sever,
Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell,
Joy nor grief, henceforth forever.
None of all his saints is lost:
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives and death is now
But my entrance into glory.
Courage, then, my soul, for thou
Hast a crown of life before thee;
Thou shalt find thy hopes were just:
Jesus is the Christian's trust. 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.

❖ *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 25:19-34

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 139:1-12])

Hymn 36

Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me

Lord, thou hast searched me, and dost know
Where'er I rest, where'er I go;
Thou knowest all that I have planned,
And all my ways are in thy hand.

My words from thee I cannot hide;
I feel thy pow'r on every side;
O wondrous knowledge, awesome might,
Unfathomed depth, unmeasured height!

Where can I go apart from thee,
Or whither from thy presence flee?
In heav'n?—it is thy dwelling fair;
In death's abode?—lo, thou art there.

If I the wings of morning take,
And far away my dwelling make,
The hand that leadeth me is thine,
And my support thy pow'r divine.

If deepest darkness cover me,
The darkness hideth not from thee;
To thee both night and day are bright,
The darkness shineth as the light. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Chosen by God”
Genesis 25

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev’ry sin on him was laid—here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his and he is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—this is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home—here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand. 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

“Chosen by God”
Genesis 25

Genesis 3:15; 17:19

1. Only God can give life. (vv. 1-18)
2. Only God can give eternal life. (vv. 19-28)
Romans 9:10-13
Ephesians 2:8-9; 1:3-6
John 6:37-40
3. Those to whom God has given eternal life are not perfect but are being sanctified. (vv. 29-34)
Hebrews 12:16-17; 11:21
Philippians 1:6

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, May 1

Scripture: Judges 13:1 - 14:20; John 1:29-51; Psalm 102:1-28; Proverbs 14:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 25

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

Tuesday, May 2

Scripture: Judges 15:1 - 16:31; John 2:1-25; Psalm 103:1-22; Proverbs 14:17-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 64

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

Wednesday, May 3

Scripture: Judges 17:1 - 18:31; John 3:1-21; Psalm 104:1-24; Proverbs 14:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 65

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

Thursday, May 4

Scripture: Judges 19:1 - 20:48; John 3:22 - 4:3; Psalm 104:25-35; Proverbs 14:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 66

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

Friday, May 5

Scripture: Judges 21:1 - Ruth 1:22; John 4:4-42; Psalm 105:1-15; Proverbs 14:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 67

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

Saturday, May 6

Scripture: Ruth 2:1 - 4:22; John 4:43-54; Psalm 105:16-36; Proverbs 14:26-27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 68

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

Sunday, May 7

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1 - 2:21; John 5:1-23; Psalm 105:37-45; Proverbs 14:28-29

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 69

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.

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LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Genesis 25, the Lord revealed his sovereign election by choosing Jacob, the second-born, to receive the blessing. The godly line—the elect saved by grace from whom the Messiah would be born—would be traced through Jacob, the younger son. This would have been extremely surprising to those in the ancient world because first-born normally would receive the greatest share of the inheritance and leadership of the family. Why did God do it this way? Iain Duguid, in his book, *Living in the Grip of Relentless Grace*, explains:

Repeatedly the pattern emerges that “the older will serve the younger” (Gen. 25:23). Abel was accepted while Cain was rejected; the line of Seth was chosen over the line of Cain; Isaac is chosen over Ishmael, Rachel over her older sister, Leah, and Joseph over all his older brothers. Why does God act in this way? Paul lays out the reasons for us in Romans 9:10–12:

Rebekah’s children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”

God wants to make it clear from the start that there is no favoritism with him. There are no privileged positions. Being born of Abraham is not enough; being born of Isaac and Rebekah is not enough; being the oldest child is not enough. God will have mercy on whom he will have mercy, and he will harden whom he will harden. Our salvation is all of grace, not of our merit. God is no respecter of persons. He chooses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; he chooses the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chooses the unfavored younger sons to show that all is of grace from start to finish.

1. As you consider Abraham’s death in Genesis 25:1-18, what do you recall being highlighted about his faith in the book of Genesis? What does Hebrews 11:8-19 say about Abraham’s faith, and how can you apply what you learn to your own life?
2. How has our study through Abraham’s life from Genesis 11-25 affected your understanding about God and his covenant faithfulness?
3. Read Genesis 25:19-28. What do these verses reveal about the doctrine of election? What does the Apostle Paul explain about God’s decree of election in Romans 9:6-16? How does this doctrine reveal God’s justice and his grace?
4. What does Genesis 25:29-34 reveal about these two men? How is Jesus, a descendant of Isaac, different from both of these sinful men? How ought knowing this increase your faith and sense of assurance of salvation?