

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 9, 2023

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 146 (p. 839 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save.

**When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—
the LORD, who remains faithful forever.**

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind,

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

**The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.**

The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD.

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

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

Thine Be the Glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes, where thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing, for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love: bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we praise you for the loving kindness you have shown us in Jesus Christ. While we were still sinners, he died for us.

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for our many sins. We are guilty of pride and unbelief, of anger and lust. Our transgressions are ever before us, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

Leader: Grant us repentant hearts to understand the sinfulness of sin, but also the assurance of forgiveness. We thank you that our sins will not be counted against us, because they all have been laid upon Christ, our risen and ascended King.

All: All glory, honor, and praise be to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 8:31-34

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 16

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 Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 57. *Which is the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment is “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Q. 58. *What is required in the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself.

Q. 59. *Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?*

A. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath.

Q. 60. *How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?*

A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God’s worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Q. 61. *What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment forbids the omission, or careless performance, of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Q. 62. *What are the reasons attached to the fourth commandment?*

A. The reasons attached to the fourth commandment are, God’s allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the Sabbath day.

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.

❖ *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*

Luke 24:1-12

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.

Profession of Faith

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Death Could Not Keep Jesus in Its Grip”
Acts 2:22-36

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 286

Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Rise, O church, and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices; resurrection anthems swell.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

See the tomb where death had laid him, empty now, its mouth declares:
“Death and I could not contain him, for the throne of life he shares.”
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with pow’r;
All hell’s minions may assemble, but cannot withstand his hour.
He has conquered, he has conquered, Christ the Lord, the risen King!

Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
But the truth proclaims a wonder thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
He is risen, he is risen, now receive the risen King!

We acclaim your life, O Jesus, now we sing your victory;
Sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ, the risen King! 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, April 10

Scripture: Deut. 34:1 - Joshua 2:24; Luke 13:22 - 14:6; Psalm 79:1-13; Prov. 12:26

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 22

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

Tuesday, April 11

Scripture: Joshua 3:1 - 4:24; Luke 14:7-35; Psalm 80:1-19; Proverbs 12:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 46

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

Wednesday, April 12

Scripture: Joshua 5:1 - 7:15; Luke 15:1-32; Psalm 81:1-16; Proverbs 13:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 47

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the Republic of Maldives and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, April 13

Scripture: Joshua 7:1 - 9:2; Luke 16:1-18; Psalm 82:1-8; Proverbs 13:2-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 48

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

Friday, April 14

Scripture: Joshua 9:3 - 10:43; Luke 16:19 - 17:10; Psalm 83:1-18; Proverbs 13:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 49

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

Saturday, April 15

Scripture: Joshua 11:1 - 12:24; Luke 17:11-37; Psalm 84:1-12; Proverbs 13:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 50

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

Sunday, April 16

Scripture: Joshua 13:1 - 14:15; Luke 18:1-17; Psalm 85:1-13; Proverbs 13:7-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 51

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 89:1-5

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

All: You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’” Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

Hymn*

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise” Hymn 3

Congregational Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before you this evening and confess our many sins. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Our sins weigh heavy on our hearts, and we are ashamed of our disobedience. Forgive us, O God, for the sake of your only-begotten Son, the Lord Jesus, who died to free us from both the penalty and power of sin. In his strong Name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 130:7-8

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Hymn

“I’ve Found a Friend, O Such a Friend!” Hymn 517

Scripture Reading*

Acts 26

Hymn

“Fairest Lord Jesus” Hymn 170

Prayer

Sermon

The Spirit-Empowered Witness Desires that
All People Would Believe in Christ
Acts 26:24-29

Pastor Ben Muresan

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Hymn*

“Jesus Shall Reign” Hymn 441

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.