

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 28, 2023

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:15

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 91 (p. 817 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.

**He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.**

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—

then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;

you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

“Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him;

“I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

“He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.

“With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

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

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

Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit

Come, O come, thou quick'ning Spirit, God from all eternity!
May thy power never fail us; dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light banish all the gloom of night.

Grant our hearts in fullest measure wisdom, counsel, purity,
That we ever may be seeking only that which pleaseth thee.
Let thy knowledge spread and grow, working error's overthrow.

Show us, Lord, the path of blessing; when we trespass on our way,
Cast, O Lord, our sins behind thee and be with us day by day.
Should we stray, O Lord, recall; work repentance when we fall.

Holy Spirit, strong and mighty, thou who makest all things new,
Make thy work within us perfect and the evil foe subdue.
Grant us weapons for the strife and with vict'ry crown our life. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God, we approach you as your children, filled with your Holy Spirit by whom we are enabled and emboldened to cry, "Abba! Father!"

All: Though we approach as your children, we confess that we have not behaved as those who are called by your Name. We have sinned against you and others, and it grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, and cause us to walk in your ways. Work in us by your Holy Spirit so that we will always seek to do what is pleasing in your sight.

All: We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Prophet, Priest, and King, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Ezekiel 36:25-28

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 29:1-14

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

More Than Conquerors

All hail the mighty Conqueror, Christ Jesus, our great King!
All hail the glorious Warrior, to whom our praise we bring.
May he be given honors by all his ransomed host:
We, too, are more than conquerors who make his name our boast.

Yet how can we inherit this title “conqueror” too?
We have not earned the merit or fame that is his due.
For we have only failed him by ev’ry sin and doubt;
Indeed, we cruelly nailed him and cast the Conqueror out.

But rising up victorious he conquered death and sin,
And reigns in heaven glorious, each conflict set to win.
To those of his own choosing he shares the victory;
Says, “Though you once were losing, come conquer now through me.”

“You cannot be defeated by trials in this life.
The conquest is completed o’er Satan, sin, and strife.
No pain, no tribulation, no danger, famine, sword,
No—nothing in creation can conquer those in God.”

Now since our God is for us what have we then to fear?
Though enemies deplore us, we face them all with cheer.
For we will be triumphant: each foe will be trod down
Beneath the Christ exultant, who shares the Conqueror’s crown. 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 29:15-35

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 100])

Hymn 65

Before Jehovah's Awesome Throne

Before Jehovah's awesome throne,
All nations, bow with sacred joy;
Know that the Lord is God alone,
He can create, and he destroy—
He can create, and he destroy.

His sovereign pow'r, without our aid,
Made us of dust and formed us men;
And when like wand'ring sheep we strayed,
He brought us to his fold again—
He brought us to his fold again.

We are his people, we his care,
Our souls and all our mortal frame;
What lasting honors shall we rear,
Almighty Maker, to your name?—
Almighty Maker, to your name?

We'll crowd your gates with thankful songs,
High as the heav'ns our voices raise;
And earth, with her ten thousand tongues,
Shall fill your courts with sounding praise—
Shall fill your courts with sounding praise.

Wide as the world is your command,
Vast as eternity your love;
Firm as a rock your truth must stand,
When rolling years shall cease to move—
When rolling years shall cease to move. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“This Time I Will Praise the LORD”
Genesis 29

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 335

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would gracious be;
And with words that help and heal would thy life in mine reveal;
And with actions bold and meek would for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would truthful be;
And with wisdom kind and clear let thy life in mine appear;
And with actions brotherly speak my Lord’s sincerity.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would mighty be;
Mighty so as to prevail where unaided man must fail;
Ever by a mighty hope pressing on and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would holy be;
Se-pa-rate from sin, I would—choose and cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be, give to him who gave me thee! 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.*

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, May 29

Scripture: 2 Samuel 14:1 - 15:22; John 18:1-24; Psalm 119:97-112; Proverbs 16:8-9

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 29

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

Tuesday, May 30

Scripture: 2 Sam. 15:23 - 16:23; John 18:25 - 19:22; Ps. 119:113-128; Prov. 16:10-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 88

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

Wednesday, May 31

Scripture: 2 Samuel 17:1-29; John 19:23-42; Psalm 119:129-152; Proverbs 16:12-13

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 89

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Mauritius and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, June 1

Scripture: 2 Samuel 18:1 - 19:10; John 20:1-31; Psalm 119:153-176; Proverbs 16:14-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 90

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

Friday, June 2

Scripture: 2 Samuel 19:11 - 20:13; John 21:1-25; Psalm 120:1-7; Proverbs 16:16-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 91

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

Saturday, June 3

Scripture: 2 Samuel 20:14 - 21:22; Acts 1:1-26; Psalm 121:1-8; Proverbs 16:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 92

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

Sunday, June 4

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:1 - 23:23; Acts 2:1-47; Psalm 122:1-9; Proverbs 16:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 93

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 29, we see how Jacob, Laban, and Leah were all chasing after fulfillment in the things of this world that can never truly fulfill us. The only true source of fulfillment and satisfaction is God himself. He is the only perfect, eternal, and inexhaustible fountain of joy and happiness. God was gracious to Leah by granting her the son of promise—Judah. Jesus was born from the tribe of Judah. God helped Leah see that the fulfillment she sought from her husband, Jacob, was fleeting. Only the Lord could give her what she longed for. This is true for each of us. Sidney Greidanus in his book, *Preaching Christ from Genesis*, writes:

Leah, the unloved wife, is the one who testifies to the Lord's faithfulness. Verse 32, "Leah conceived and bore a son, and she named him Reuben; for she said, 'Because the LORD has looked on my affliction; surely now my husband will love me.'" When Leah bears a second son, she again acknowledges the Lord, "'Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also'; and she named him Simeon" (v. 33). Then Leah bears a third son and says, "'Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne him three sons'; therefore he was named Levi" (v. 34). "She conceived again and bore a son, and said, 'This time I will praise the LORD'; therefore she named him Judah. Then she ceased bearing" (v. 35).

Leah, the unwanted and unloved wife, gives birth to the forebears of four important tribes in Israel. Moses and Aaron would be born in the tribe of Levi; the Lord would choose the Levites to serve him in his temple. David would be born in the tribe of Judah; the Lord would choose the royal line of kings from the tribe of Judah. As later Israel read this story of Laban's deception and Jacob's wrong choices, they would have become aware of a deep mystery: their sovereign Lord can fulfill his promises even through human deception and scheming.

1. Read Genesis 29 and consider how the providence of God is revealed in this story. How does seeing God's providence at work, even through human sin and corruption, encourage you?
2. What does God teach Jacob through Laban's deceptions? How does this reveal the way in which God disciplines his children according to Hebrews 12:6-17? What do you think God's discipline might look like in your own life?
3. How did Jacob demonstrate a lack of spiritual priorities when he pursued Rachel? In what way do you sometimes demonstrate a lack of spiritual priorities in your own pursuits and decisions? What can you do to change that moving forward?
4. What changed with the birth of Leah's fourth son, Judah, and why? What does this reveal about the fulfillment that we can find in Christ alone?

More Than Conquerors

1. All hail the might - y Con - queror, Christ Je - sus, our great King!
 2. Yet how can we in - her - it this ti - tle "con - queror" too?
 3. But ris - ing up vic - to - rious He con - quered death and sin,
 4. "You can - not be de - feat - ed by tri - als in this life.
 5. Now since our God is for us what have we then to fear?"

All hail the glo - rious War - rior, to Whom our praise we bring. ²
 We have not earned the mer - it or fame that is His due. ⁷
 And reigns in Heav - en glo - rious, each con - flict set to win.
 The con - quest is com - plet - ed o'er Sa - tan, sin and strife.
 Though en - e - mies de - plore us, we face them all with cheer.

May He be giv - en hon - ors by all His ran - somed host;
 For we have on - ly failed Him by ev' - ry sin and doubt;
 To those of His own choos - ing He shares the vic - to - ry;
 No pain, no trib - u - la - tion, no dan - ger, fam - ine, sword,
 For we will be tri - um - phant: each foe will be trod down

We, too, are more than con - querors who make His name our boast.
 In - deed, we cruel - ly nailed Him and cast the Con - queror out.
 Says, "Though you once were los - ing, come con - quer now through me."
 No noth - ing in cre - a - tion can con - quer those in God."
 Be - neath the Christ ex - ult - ant, who shares the Con - queror's crown.