

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let your glory be over all the earth!

**Psalm 108:5**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing\*

Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 100 (p. 821 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the LORD is God.

**It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;

**give thanks to him and praise his name.**

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

**his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

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

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

***For the Beauty of the Earth***

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely giv'n,  
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. Amen.*

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions. Wash away our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sins.

**All:** For we know our transgressions, and our sins are always before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

**Leader:** Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time we were conceived. Cleanse us, and we will be clean; wash us, and we will be whiter than snow. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and grant us steadfast obedience.

**All:** We praise 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, forever. Amen.

**Private Confession of Our Sins**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

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 Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 70.** *Which is the seventh commandment?*

**A.** The seventh commandment is, “You shall not commit adultery.”

**Q. 71.** *What is required in the seventh commandment?*

**A.** The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor’s chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

**Q. 72.** *What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?*

**A.** The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.

## 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.

❖ *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 26:1-33

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

“God’s Covenant Faithfulness”  
Genesis 26:1-33

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 660

### *O God Beyond All Praising*

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
We’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of 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.

## SERMON NOTES

### “God’s Covenant Faithfulness”

Genesis 26:1-33

1. God reaffirms his covenant promises to Abraham’s son, Isaac. (vv. 1-5)  
Genesis 12:10; 15:5, 18
2. Isaac reveals that he is completely dependent on the grace of God, just like Abraham was. (vv. 6-11)  
Genesis 12:13; 20:2
3. God blesses Isaac, just like he blessed Abraham. (vv. 12-22)  
Genesis 13:2-7
4. Isaac worships God alone, just like Abraham did. (vv. 23-25)  
Genesis 13:3-4
5. The nations recognize God’s blessing upon Isaac, just like they recognized God’s blessing upon Abraham, and through this family God will bless the nations. (vv. 26-33)  
Genesis 21:22-24; Matthew 8:11; 28:19

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# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, May 8**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:22 - 4:22; John 5:24-47; Psalm 106:1-12; Proverbs 14:30-31

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 26

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

## **Tuesday, May 9**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 5:1 - 7:17; John 6:1-21; Psalm 106:13-31; Proverbs 14:32-33

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 70

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

## **Wednesday, May 10**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:1 - 9:27; John 6:22-42; Psalm 106:32-48; Proverbs 14:34-35

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 71

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the Marshall Islands and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, May 11**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 10:1 - 11:15; John 6:43-71; Psalm 107:1-43; Proverbs 15:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 72

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

## **Friday, May 12**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 12:1 - 13:23; John 7:1-30; Psalm 108:1-13; Proverbs 15:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 73

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

## **Saturday, May 13**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 14:1-52; John 7:31-53; Psalm 109:1-31; Proverbs 15:5-7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 74

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

## **Sunday, May 14**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1 - 16:23; John 8:1-20; Psalm 110:1-7; Proverbs 15:8-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 75

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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## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Genesis 26 is a summary of several main events in Isaac's life, each of them revealing how God was working in and through him to fulfill his promises. Isaac had many of the strengths and weaknesses of his father, Abraham. While both trusted in the Lord, they at times were guided more by fear than by faith. What should we do when the fear of man seems to be overpowering our trust in the Lord? Iain Duguid provides helpful guidance:

When Isaac stopped fearing God and putting obedience to God first, he started fearing everyone else. As long as he was fearing God, he had nothing to fear from any man or woman, and so he was free to go out and serve others with boldness. When he started thinking only about himself, however, and about trying to protect himself, he ceased thinking about others and caring for them. He was no longer free to serve; instead, he was locked into trying to protect himself. It's an insidious shift, and it can happen so easily to us all. As I have been thinking about this passage, I've also become aware that I've been putting off a difficult but necessary phone call. Because I've been fearing others, I haven't been free to be a blessing to them.

What is the answer for our self-protectiveness? The answer is the gospel. We need to remind ourselves over and over again of Jesus, the one who did not fear men, who did not economize on the truth to save himself. Though the truth about who he was remained veiled while he was on earth, it was not veiled for the sake of his safety. On the contrary, it was veiled so that he might lay down his life for the sake of his people, bearing the servant's form that he had taken upon himself all the way to the cross. His thought was not of himself and his comfort and safety. His focus was entirely upon the glory of God that would be demonstrated in the saving of an unrighteous, unworthy people and restoring them into a holy nation. Nor was this plan limited to the children of Abraham. His work included the bringing of Gentiles like Abimelech into the inheritance in the one kingdom of God alongside covenant-breaking sons of Abraham, such as Isaac, so that God's salvation might extend to the ends of the earth.... Knowing and fearing this God gives you the power to be free of any other fears in this life, for if this God is with us, who can be against us?

1. Read Genesis 26:3-5. Why is it significant that God restated his covenant promises to Isaac? What reason does God give for this in verse 5, and how does this coincide with his grace?
2. Read Genesis 26:6-11. What caused Isaac to fear? What would have been a more faithful response? What do you fear in life? How might a greater sense of the fear of the Lord cause you to trust in him more?
3. Read Genesis 25:12-25. What evidence is there of God's blessing in Isaac's life? How did he respond according to verse 25? What does Isaac's response teach you about worship, especially as you consider passages such as Psalm 136 and Romans 12:1-2?

# 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. <sup>2</sup>  
 We have not earned the mer - it or fame that is His due. <sup>7</sup>  
 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.