

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 23, 2023

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Psalm 145:8-9

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 32 (p. 795 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him
and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”—
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found;

surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.

You are my hiding place;

you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you and watch over you.

**Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.**

Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD’s unfailing love
surrounds the man who trusts in him.

**Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!**

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

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

O Father, You Are Sovereign

O Father, you are sovereign in all the worlds you made;
Your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the ocean's shore,
Sets stars within their courses and stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, you are sovereign in all affairs of man;
No pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space,
You hold your trusting children secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign, the Lord of human pain,
Transmuting earthly sorrows to gold of heav'nly gain.
All evil over-ruling, as none but Conqu'ror could,
Your love pursues its purpose—our souls' eternal good.

O Father, you are sovereign! We see you dimly now,
But soon before your triumph earth's every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us our faith springs up anew:
Our sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and worship you! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that your commandments are righteous and good. They reveal your holiness, and they teach us how to live as your children in a way that pleases you.

All: We confess that we broke your commandments by our careless deeds, our hurtful words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Apart from Christ there is nothing in us that gives us reason for hope, yet in him we have received pardon and are clothed in his righteousness. Enable us to wholeheartedly believe your assurance of forgiveness and to live godly, righteous, and devout lives as we await our Savior's glorious return.

All: All glory 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

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 34:1-18

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 168

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
My only trust and Savior of my heart,
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
Reigning omnipotent in ev'ry place:
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;
Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the Life, by which alone we live,
And all our substance and our strength receive;
O comfort us in death's approaching hour,
Strong-hearted then to face it by thy pow'r.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,
No harshness hast thou and no bitterness:
Make us to taste the sweet grace found in thee
And ever stay in thy sweet unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee;
Our faith is built upon thy promise free;
O grant to us such stronger hope and sure
That we can boldly conquer and endure. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 96. *What is the Lord's Supper?*

A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, in which by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's direction, his death is shown forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

Q. 97. *What is required to be worthy of receiving the Lord's Supper?*

A. It is required of those who would receive the Lord's Supper worthily that they examine themselves, as to their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, as to their faith to feed on him, and as to their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment on themselves.

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 34:19-31

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 76])

Hymn 66

God Is Known Among His People

God is known among his people,
Every mouth his praises fill;
From of old he has established
His abode on Zion's hill;
There he broke the sword and arrow,
Bade the noise of war be still.

Excellent and glorious are you,
With your trophies from the fray;
You have slain the mighty warriors,
Wrapped in sleep of death are they;
When your anger once is risen,
Who can stand in that dread day?

When from heav'n your sentence sounded,
All the earth in fear was still,
While to save the meek and lowly
God in judgment wrought his will;
E'en the wrath of man shall praise you,
Your designs it shall fulfill.

Vow and pay unto Jehovah,
Him your God forever own;
All men, bring your gifts before him,
Worship him, and him alone;
Mighty kings obey and fear him,
Princes bow before his throne. Amen.

Reception of New Members

Sacrament of Baptism

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,
All thy lambs in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand;
None can pluck them from thy hand.

May they praise thee every day,
Gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessed ones above,
Happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,
Teach thy lambs thy voice to hear;
Suffer not their steps to stray
From the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest may they go,
Walking in thy steps below;
Then, before thy Father's throne,
Savior, claim them for thine own. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“God’s Gracious Solution for Our Depravity”
Genesis 34

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 170

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine. 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.

SERMON NOTES

“God’s Gracious Solution for Our Depravity”
Genesis 34

1. Be aware of the sinfulness of the world.
Romans 16:19
2. Be aware of the sinfulness of your own heart.
Romans 3:23
Genesis 49:5-7
3. Believe in Christ and his victory over sin.
John 3:16-17

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, July 24

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 11:1 - 13:22; Romans 8:26-39; Psalm 18:37-50; Prov. 19:27-29

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 4

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

Tuesday, July 25

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 14:1 - 16:14; Romans 9:1-24; Psalm 19:1-14; Proverbs 20:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 29

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

Wednesday, July 26

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 17:1 - 18:34; Romans 9:25 - 10:13; Psalm 20:1-9; Prov. 20:2-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 30

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Mongolia and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, July 27

Scripture: 2 Chron. 19:1 - 20:37; Romans 10:14 - 11:12; Psalm 21:1-13; Prov. 20:4-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 31

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

Friday, July 28

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 21:1 - 23:21; Romans 11:13-36; Psalm 22:1-18; Prov. 20:7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 32

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

Saturday, July 29

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 24:1 - 25:28; Romans 12:1-21; Psalm 22:19-31; Prov. 20:8-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 33

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

Sunday, July 30

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 26:1 - 28:27; Romans 13:1-14; Psalm 23:1-6; Proverbs 20:11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 34

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

Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

After learning about how Jacob demonstrated heartfelt repentance in Genesis 33, we see in Genesis 34 that his faith grew weak, causing him to fail in his obedience. What do we make of this as Christians? Iain Duguid provides helpful insight into how Jacob reflects the struggle of every true believer, and how God, through Jacob, demonstrates his sovereign, sustaining grace. Duguid writes:

Up and down. Success and failure. What are we to make of Jacob? One minute he is Israel, striving with God and man and overcoming. The next minute, he is a compromising and compromised bystander to an atrocity. What are we to say except that he looks a lot like us? Maybe our downs aren't as deep as his. Perhaps we haven't personally presided over such a massacre. But then maybe our ups aren't as high either. We are altogether more mediocre saints and mediocre sinners. You could blame his environment, growing up in a home where favoritism and deceit was rife. Or you can blame his heredity, which stretches back to Adam and Eve, the first sinners. There is plenty of blame to go around. Either way, however, the good news is that God hasn't finished with Jacob yet.

Isn't that an amazing fact? In spite of his continuing sinfulness, the deceived deceiver is not abandoned by El-Elohe-Israel, the mighty God of Israel. In spite of his continuing failure, he is not stamped "rejected" and placed on the shelf. On the contrary, God again appears to him (Gen. 35:1) and takes him limping back to the beginning, back to Bethel, back to the place where it all began. There Jacob will be reminded of his weakness, the thread by which his life once hung, when he was fleeing for his life from his brother with nothing other than the clothes he stood up in. There he will be called upon to build the altar he had vowed to build and offer up on it a sacrifice.

1. For review, read Genesis 33. How did Jacob demonstrate his repentance after God humbled him in the wrestling match?
2. Read Genesis 34. Before hearing today's sermon, how did you interpret this passage? What insights and details did you learn in the sermon that now help you to better understand this passage?
3. What is your overall impression of Jacob in this chapter? What is your overall impression of Simeon, Levi, and Jacob's other sons?
4. How does Genesis 34 reveal the truth of Romans 3:23? How can we as Christians be aware of the sinfulness of the world without actually participating in it?
5. How does Genesis 34 help us as Christians understand the sinfulness of our own hearts, even though our hearts have been renewed through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit? As you formulate your answer, consider how Westminster Confession of Faith 13.2 describes our sanctification: "This sanctification, although imperfect in this life, is effected in every part of man's nature. Some remnants of corruption still persist in every part, and so there arises a continual and irreconcilable war—the flesh warring against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh."