

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 30, 2023

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**1 Corinthians 11:26**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing\*

Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 33 (p. 796 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

**Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.**

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

**For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.**

The LORD loves righteousness and justice;

**the earth is full of his unfailing love.**

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

**He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.**

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him.

**For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.**

The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

**But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance.

**From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind;**

from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—

**he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.**

No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength.

**A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.**

But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

**to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.**

We wait in hope for the LORD;

**he is our help and our shield.**

In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

**May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.**

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

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

## Hymn of Preparation\*

Hymn 78 (music printed on p. 12)

### *O Bless the Lord, My Soul*

O bless the Lord, my soul; let all within me join,  
And aid my tongue to bless his name, whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness, and without praises die.

'Tis he forgives your sins, 'tis he relieves your pain,  
'Tis he that heals your sicknesses and makes you young again.

He crowns your life with love when ransomed from the grave;  
He that redeemed my soul from hell has sovereign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good; he gives the suff'ers rest:  
The Lord has judgments for the proud and justice for th'oppressed.

His wondrous works and ways he made by Moses known,  
But sent the world his truth and grace by his beloved Son. Amen.

## Congregational Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Father, we come before you to acknowledge our sin, because if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**All:** We confess that we have walked in darkness rather than living according to what you have revealed to us in your Word. We have sinned against you and our neighbors, and we are ashamed and sorry for how we have displeased you.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray, and renew our wills. We desire to be conformed more and more to the likeness of Christ; grant us grace and work in us by your Holy Spirit to that end.

**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, forever. Amen.

## Private Confession of Our Sins

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Genesis 35

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 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 36

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.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Worship Is Covenant Renewal”  
Genesis 35-36

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 676

### ***Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment***

Day by day and with each passing moment,  
Strength I find to meet my trials here;  
Trusting in my Father’s wise bestowment,  
I’ve no cause for worry or for fear.  
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure  
Gives unto each day what he deems best—  
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,  
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day the Lord himself is near me  
With a special mercy for each hour;  
All my cares he fain would bear, and cheer me,  
He whose name is Counselor and Pow’r.  
The protection of his child and treasure  
Is a charge that on himself he laid;  
“As your days, your strength shall be in measure,”  
This the pledge to me he made.

Help me then in every tribulation  
So to trust your promises, O Lord,  
That I lose not faith’s sweet consolation  
Offered me within your holy Word.  
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,  
E’er to take, as from a father’s hand,  
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,  
Till I reach the promised land. 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, July 31**

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 29:1-36; Romans 14:1-23; Psalm 24:1-10; Proverbs 20:12

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 5

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

## **Tuesday, August 1**

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 30:1 - 31:21; Romans 15:1-22; Psalm 25:1-15; Prov. 20:13-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 35

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

## **Wednesday, August 2**

Scripture: 2 Chron. 32:1 - 33:13; Romans 15:23 - 16:9; Psalm 25:16-22; Prov. 20:16-18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 36

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

## **Thursday, August 3**

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 33:14 - 34:33; Romans 16:10-27; Psalm 26:1-12; Prov. 20:19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 37

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

## **Friday, August 4**

Scripture: 2 Chron. 35:1 - 36:23; 1 Corinthians 1:1-17; Psalm 27:1-6; Prov. 20:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 38

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

## **Saturday, August 5**

Scripture: Ezra 1:1 - 2:70; 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5; Psalm 27:7-14; Proverbs 20:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 39

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

## **Sunday, August 6**

Scripture: Ezra 3:1 - 4:23; 1 Corinthians 2:6 - 3:4; Psalm 28:1-9; Proverbs 20:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 40

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

What is worship? One of the ways the Bible helps us answer this question is by describing worship within the context of covenant. God is our God, and we are his people. As his people, he calls us to worship him and to regularly renew our covenant with him through worship. God takes the initiative to reveal his grace and to draw us to himself. Michael Horton, in an article in *Modern Reformation* magazine, writes:

It is in this context that we talk about the “covenant renewal ceremony,” which is how Reformed folk often talk about the worship service. Whenever we gather for Word and sacrament, it is because we have been summoned. That is what “church” means: *ekklesia*, “called out.” It is not a voluntary society of those who come together regularly with the chief concern to share, to build community, to enjoy fellowship, and so forth. Rather, it is a society of those who have been chosen, redeemed, called, justified, and are being sanctified until one day they will finally be glorified in heaven. We gather each Lord’s Day not merely out of habit or social custom, but because God has chosen this day as a foretaste of the everlasting Sabbath day that will be enjoyed fully at the marriage supper of the Lamb. God has called us out of the world: that is why we gather.

We also gather to receive God’s gifts. And this is where the emphasis falls—or should fall. Throughout the Scriptures, the service is seen chiefly as God’s action. The one who brought us up out of the land of Egypt and made us his people takes the initiative in salvation and throughout the Christian life. The shadows of Christ in the Mosaic covenant, especially the detailed legislation for the sacrifices, are fulfilled in the advent of the Messiah. Therefore, we do not worship in an earthly sanctuary, but in the heavenly sanctuary where we are seated with Christ in heavenly places. Hence, Jesus’ statement to the Samaritan woman in John 4:23-24. Like the smoking firepot with a blazing torch, God walks down the middle of the aisle assuming the judgment his own justice requires and his own mercy satisfies. He circumcises our hearts, with the baptismal font prominently centered. He creates faith in our heart from the preaching and confirms us in this faith through the sacraments.

1. For review, read Genesis 34. How did Jacob sin? How did his sons sin? How does this passage point forward to Christ?
2. What was so special about Bethel according to Genesis 28:10-22? How does God’s call to Jacob in Genesis 35:1 reveal his grace?
3. In what ways does Genesis 35 describe covenant renewal? In what ways is each Lord’s Day worship service a covenant renewal ceremony? Why is that important for us to remember as we enter into worship?
4. As you think about Genesis 36 and the genealogy of Esau, why was Amos 9:11-12 such a surprising prophecy for Israel? How was this prophecy fulfilled according to Acts 15:16-17? How should understanding this affect our evangelism?

# O Bless the Lord, My Soul

78

*Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Ps. 103:1*

1. O bless the Lord, my soul; let all with - in me join,  
2. O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mer - cies lie  
3. 'Tis he for - gives your sins, 'tis he re - lieves your pain,  
4. He crowns your life with love when ran - somed from the grave;

and aid my tongue to bless his name, whose fa - vors are di - vine.  
for - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness, and with - out prais - es die.  
'tis he that heals your sick - ness - es and makes you young a - gain.  
he that re - deemed my soul from hell has sov - ereign pow'r to save.

5. He fills the poor with good;  
he gives the suff'ers rest:  
the Lord has judgments for the proud  
and justice for th'oppressed.

6. His wondrous works and ways  
he made by Moses known,  
but sent the world his truth and grace  
by his beloved Son.

From Psalm 103  
Isaac Watts. 1719: mod.

ST. MICHAEL S.M.  
Genevan Psalter, 1543