

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

**Revelation 4:11**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

### Greeting and Blessing\*

### Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 31:1-14 (p. 794 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

**Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;**

be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

**Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.**

Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.

**Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.**

I hate those who cling to worthless idols; I trust in the LORD.

**I will be glad and rejoice in your love,**

for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.

**You have not handed me over to the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place.**

Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

**my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief.**

My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning;

**my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.**

Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors;

**I am a dread to my friends—those who see me on the street flee from me.**

I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.

**For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side;**

they conspire against me and plot to take my life.

**But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”**

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

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

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty***

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!  
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do, if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,  
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.  
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief, spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly fore'er we adore him. Amen.

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we come to you burdened by guilt and shame as we remember how often we sinned against you and others.

**All:** We confess that we are guilty of pride and unbelief, of anger and lust. We have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by wasting your good gifts to us. Our transgressions are ever before us, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray. Enable us by your Holy Spirit to put off sin and to put on Christ. Help us in our fight against sin, and empower us to act, speak, and think in ways that glorify you.

**All:** We pray this through the merit and mediation 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**

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Job 2

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. 91.** *How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?*

**A.** The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him who administers them, but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in those who by faith receive them.

**Q. 92.** *What is a sacrament?*

**A.** A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, in which, by perceptible signs, Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

**Q. 93.** *Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?*

**A.** The sacraments of the New Testament are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

## 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\*

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

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.

## 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

“Wrestling with God”  
Genesis 32:22-32

## **GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

### **Hymn of Thanksgiving\***

#### ***Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me***

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer; there is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Savior, He will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need His power is displayed.  
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me; through the deepest valley He will lead.  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven; the future sure, the price, it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated; Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for He has said that He will bring me home.  
And day by day I know He will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus; all the glory evermore to Him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: yet not I, but through Christ in me. 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

## “Wrestling with God” Genesis 32:22-32

1. God answers our prayers in ways that he knows are best.  
2 Corinthians 12:1-10

2. God sanctifies us through the process that he knows is best.  
Hosea 12:3-4  
Ephesians 6:12

Westminster Confession of Faith 13.2-3, “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. Although in this war the remaining corruption may strongly prevail for a time, yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate nature overcomes, and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

3. God is our greatest reward, so let us hold on to him by faith.  
Acts 16:30-31

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# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, July 10**

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 9:1 - 10:14; Acts 27:21-44; Psalm 8:1-9; Proverbs 18:23-24

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 2

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

## **Tuesday, July 11**

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 11:1 - 12:18; Acts 28:1-31; Psalm 9:1-12; Proverbs 19:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 17

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

## **Wednesday, July 12**

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 12:19 - 14:17; Romans 1:1-17; Psalm 9:13-20; Proverbs 19:4-5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 18

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Mongolia and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, July 13**

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 15:1 - 16:36; Romans 1:18-32; Psalm 10:1-15; Proverbs 19:6-7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 19

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

## **Friday, July 14**

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:37 - 18:17; Romans 2:1-24; Psalm 10:16-18; Prov. 19:8-9

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 20

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

## **Saturday, July 15**

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 19:1 - 21:30; Romans 2:25 - 3:8; Psalm 11:1-7; Prov. 19:10-12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 21

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

## **Sunday, July 16**

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 22:1 - 23:32; Romans 3:9-31; Psalm 12:1-8; Proverbs 19:13-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 22

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

God uses many different means to sanctify us throughout our lives. We believe and trust that he is our heavenly Father who knows what is best, and the means that he chooses to use are those that he knows will accomplish his will for our lives. Sometimes the means he uses are mysterious and challenging, but they always serve to accomplish his purposes. In Genesis 32, Jacob prayed that the Lord would deliver him from the danger he faced from his brother Esau, and the way the Lord answered his prayer was completely unexpected. Instead of wrestling with Esau and crippling him in order to protect Jacob, God wrestled with Jacob and touched his hip, wrenching it out of its socket. While God's answer to Jacob's prayer was surprising and mysterious, it accomplished God's perfect will for Jacob's life. John Currid, in his commentary on Genesis, writes:

God fights with Jacob to show him that the blessings of God come only through the gracious provision of God, and not from anything else. They do not come from human strength or cunning. So, as Jacob goes to meet Esau, he carries in his very flesh the sign that God provides, and that Jacob need not rely on his own wily ways. We, of course, ought to learn from the example of Jacob. To live our lives as Christians we must depend on God. We cannot rely on our own ways, means and strength. And if we do not depend on him, God may bring us to a point, as he did Jacob, where he shows our self-sufficiency to be insufficient. As Martin Luther remarked, "And so we have this noble chapter, in which you see the marvelous dealing of God with his saints for our comfort and example, so that we may daily ask ourselves if he is also at work with us and be prepared for it."

1. Read Genesis 32:1-21. What did Jacob fear? What do you learn from Jacob's prayer to the Lord about how to pray?
2. How does God's wrestling with Jacob in Genesis 32:22-32 provide an illustration of God's work of sanctification in our lives? Consider especially how Westminster Confession of Faith 13.2-3 describes 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. Although in this war the remaining corruption may strongly prevail for a time, yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate nature overcomes, and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. What was God teaching Paul through his experience? What has God used in your own life to teach you more about himself and salvation by grace?
4. What is significant about the fact that God asked Jacob for his name in Genesis 32:27? Why did God change his name? How does this further reveal how God sanctifies his people?