

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 6, 2023

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Psalm 139:14

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 73 (p. 811 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.

For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.

They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.

Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.

From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.

They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression.

Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.

Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.

They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"

This is what the wicked are like—always carefree, they increase in wealth.

Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.

All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.

If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children.

When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me,

till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.

How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,

I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;

I will tell of all your deeds.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

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

Come, Thou Almighty King

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise.
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy Word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God and Father, you are holy and perfect. We feel unworthy to enter into your presence because we again have failed to keep all your commandments.

All: We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: Our sins and failures weigh heavy on our hearts, and we feel how our fellowship with you has suffered. Forgive us and restore us, we pray, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who loves us and gave himself for us.

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, now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For 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 dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

(music printed on p. 12)

All Praise to Christ

To him who loved us long ago,
Before we came to be,
Who left his throne for earth below
To save a wretch like me:
*All praise to Christ from grateful men
Forevermore. Amen.*

To him who freed us from our sin
By dying on the cross,
To make us whole without, within,
Redeemed from dreadful loss:
*All praise to Christ from grateful men
Forevermore. Amen.*

To him who comes arrayed in light,
When sinners here shall see
The one they pierced and mourn the sight—
God promised; it shall be!
*All praise to Christ from grateful men
Forevermore. Amen.*

With angels, saints, and seraphim
The new creation sings,
“All glory, pow’r, and praise to him
Who made us priests and kings.”
*All praise to Christ from grateful men
forevermore. Amen. Amen.*

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 98. *What is prayer?*

A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

Q. 99. *What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?*

A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is the form of prayer that Christ taught his disciples, commonly called “the Lord’s Prayer.”

Q. 100. *What does the Preface of the Lord’s Prayer teach us?*

A. The Preface of the Lord’s Prayer, which is, “Our Father in heaven,” teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

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*

John 14:1-14

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 73:23-28])

Hymn 657

In Sweet Communion, Lord with Thee

In sweet communion, Lord, with thee
I constantly abide;
My hand thou holdest in thine own
To keep me near thy side.

Thy counsel through my earthly way
Shall guide me and control,
And then to glory afterward
Thou wilt receive my soul.

Whom have I, Lord, in heav'n but thee,
To whom my thoughts aspire?
And, having thee, on earth is naught
That I can yet desire.

Though flesh and heart should faint and fail,
The Lord will ever be
The strength and portion of my heart,
My God eternally.

To live apart from God is death,
'Tis good his face to seek;
My refuge is the living God,
His praise I long to speak. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Rudy Manrique

“Jesus Christ: The Way, The Truth, and The Life”
John 14:6

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 181

We Come, O Christ, to You

We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,
By whom all things consist, in whom all life began:
In you alone we live and move, and have our being in your love.

You are the Way to God, your blood our ransom paid;
In you we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.
Before the throne absolved we stand, your love has met your law’s demand.

You are the living Truth! All wisdom dwells in you,
The Source of every skill, the one eternal TRUE!
O great I AM! In you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true Life, to know you is to live
The more abundant life that earth can never give:
O risen Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life renew!

We worship you, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King,
To you our youth and strength adoringly we bring:
So fill our hearts, that all may view your life in us, and turn to you. 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.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, August 7

Scripture: Ezra 4:24 - 6:22; 1 Corinthians 3:5-23; Psalm 29:1-11; Proverbs 20:26-27

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 6

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

Tuesday, August 8

Scripture: Ezra 7:1 - 8:20; 1 Corinthians 4:1-21; Psalm 30:1-12; Proverbs 20:28-30

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 41

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

Wednesday, August 9

Scripture: Ezra 8:21 - 9:15; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Psalm 31:1-8; Proverbs 21:1-2

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 42

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Morocco and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, August 10

Scripture: Ezra 10:1-44; 1 Corinthians 6:1-20; Psalm 31:9-18; Proverbs 21:3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 43

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

Friday, August 11

Scripture: Nehemiah 1:1 - 3:14; 1 Corinthians 7:1-24; Psalm 31:19-24; Proverbs 21:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 44

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

Saturday, August 12

Scripture: Nehemiah 3:15 - 5:13; 1 Corinthians 7:25-40; Psalm 32:1-11; Prov. 21:5-7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 45

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

Sunday, August 13

Scripture: Nehemiah 5:14 - 7:73; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Psalm 33:1-11; Prov. 21:8-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 46

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

In John 13-16, Jesus provides his troubled disciples words of assurance—that he is the way, the truth, and the life. These comforting words assure us of our final destination. As the way, Jesus assures us that where he is—heaven—we'll be there as well. As the truth, Jesus assures us that what God promised in his Word—our salvation—can be trusted. As the life, what Adam lost in the fall—eternal life—was regained by Jesus, who perfectly obeyed God's law in our place. Indeed, as the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus' words provide assurance to any troubled believer.

As you rest this Lord's Day, consider these words by Richard Phillips from his commentary on John's gospel:

We see now where the true offense of Jesus' gospel lies. Christianity scandalizes because the gospel declares that man's alienation from God is humanly hopeless because of sin. The gospel says that we could be reconciled only if God sent a Savior to die for our sin. Only Jesus, as God's sinless Son, could atone for sin through his death. His way of salvation requires us to confess our sin, humble ourselves seeking pardon, and surrender our claims to self-rule: the very acts that sinful mankind refuses to do. Man hates the message that he cannot save himself! Man would come to God, but not by this way! Jesus offers only a salvation from sin, and a world that will not confess its sin takes offense in him and refuses reconciliation with the God who sent him.

Yet it remains good news that Jesus came from heaven to earth in order to reconcile sinners to God. Jesus said that he was returning to his Father's house, and this makes us wonder why God's Son departed the glory of heaven to live in our world. The answer is given in all the Gospels, which record Jesus' explanation for why he came. Luke records: "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). In Matthew, Jesus explained: "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). John's gospel records another of Jesus' explanations: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). (Richard Phillips, *John: Reformed Expository Commentary*, pp. 205–206.)

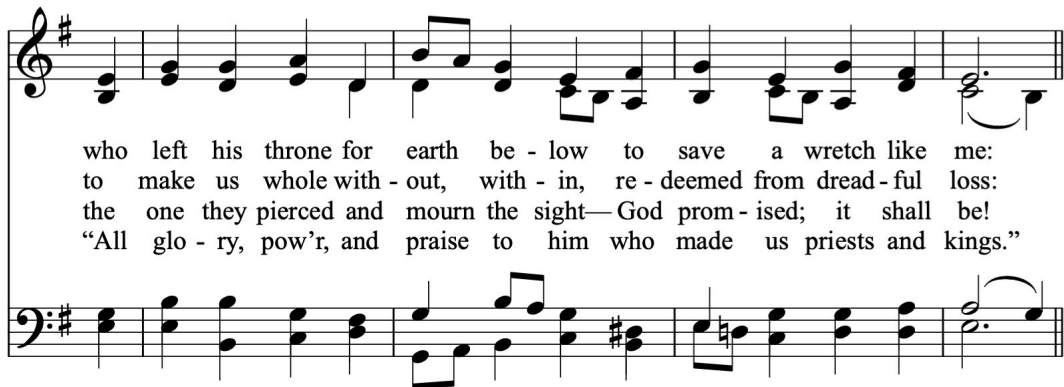
1. How does Jesus being the only way bring comfort and assurance to troubled hearts? Why do we need a way back to the Father? How do you get onto "The Way"? What is the journey like on "The Way"? What is the destination on "The Way" (see John 14:2-3)?
2. Why do people get so offended to hear that Jesus is the truth? What challenges do we face in our day over the issue of truth? What are the different ways the world and unbelievers approach the concept of truth? How do we know if the Christian faith and the testimony of Jesus are true?
3. What is eternal life (see John 10:10; WSC Q.1)? How does our culture define a "good life," and does it satisfy? How does Jesus being "The Life" relate to Adam under the covenant of works? How is Jesus the only means of salvation?
4. When Jesus says "I am" in John 14:6, what does he mean (see Exodus 3:14)? How does Jesus being the only true and living God bring you comfort and assurance in times of trial and temptation (see Romans 8:28)?

All Praise to Christ

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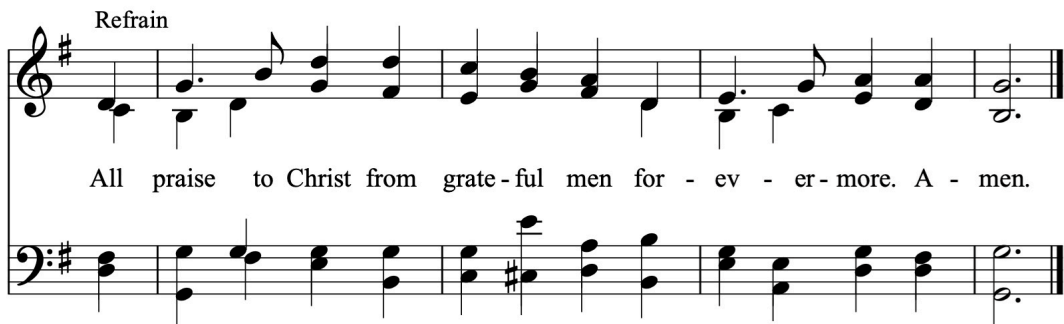


1. To him who loved us long a - go, be - fore we came to be,
 2. To him who freed us from our sin by dy - ing on the cross,
 3. To him who comes ar - rayed in light, when sin - ners here shall see
 4. With an - gels, saints, and ser - a - phim the new cre - a - tion sings,



who left his throne for earth be - low to save a wretch like me:
 to make us whole with - out, with - in, re - deemed from dread - ful loss:
 the one they pierced and mourn the sight—God prom - ised; it shall be!
 “All glo - ry, pow’r, and praise to him who made us priests and kings.”

Refrain



All praise to Christ from grate - ful men for - ev - er - more. A - men.

Based on Revelation 1:5-7
 James Montgomery Boice, 1999
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