

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

John 6:33

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 47 (p. 803 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!

He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham,

for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! Amen.*

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we approach your throne of grace repenting of the sins we have committed. You know our hearts better than we do. Nothing in all creation is hidden from you. Everything is open and exposed before you, and you are the one to whom we are accountable.

All: We confess that we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Our sins and failures weigh heavy on our hearts, and we feel how our fellowship with you has suffered. Free us from both the penalty and power of sin, so that it will not be master over us, and strengthen us to live in holiness and righteousness to the glory of your holy name.

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

1 Peter 2:22-25

Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 18:1-19

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 442

Arise, O God

Arise, O God, and shine
In all thy saving might,
And prosper each design
To spread thy glorious light:
Let healing streams of mercy flow,
That all the earth thy truth may know,
That all the earth thy truth may know.

Bring distant nations near
To sing thy glorious praise;
Let ev'ry people hear
And learn thy holy ways:
Reign, mighty God, assert thy cause,
And govern by thy righteous laws,
And govern by thy righteous laws.

Send forth thy glorious pow'r,
That Gentiles all may see,
And earth present her store
In converts born to thee:
God, our own God, thy church O bless,
And fill the world with righteousness,
And fill the world with righteousness.

To God, the only wise,
The one immortal King,
Let hallelujahs rise
From ev'ry living thing:
Let all that breathe, on ev'ry coast,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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*

Romans 5:1-11

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 98])

(music printed on p. 12)

Sing a New Song to Jehovah

Sing a new song to Jehovah
For the wonders he has wrought;
His right hand and arm most holy
Triumph to his cause have brought.
In his love and tender mercy
He has made salvation known,
In the sight of ev'ry nation
He his righteousness has shown.

Truth and mercy toward his people
He has ever kept in mind,
And his full and free salvation
He has shown to all mankind.
Sing, O earth, sing, to Jehovah,
Praises to Jehovah sing;
With the swelling notes of music
Shout before the Lord, the King.

Seas with all your fullness thunder,
All earth's peoples now rejoice;
Floods and hills in praise uniting,
To the Lord lift up your voice.
For, behold, the Lord is coming,
Robed in justice and in might;
He alone will judge the nations,
And his judgment shall be right. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Dave Briones

“A Worthy Life in a Hostile Society”
Philippians 1:27-30

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 679

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word;
Just to rest upon his promise; just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more.*

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more.*

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace.

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more.*

I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more. 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, September 25

Scripture: Isaiah 45:11 - 48:11; Ephesians 4:1-16; Psalm 68:19-35; Proverbs 24:3-4

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 13

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

Tuesday, September 26

Scripture: Isaiah 48:12 - 50:11; Ephesians 4:17-32; Psalm 69:1-18; Proverbs 24:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 83

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

Wednesday, September 27

Scripture: Isaiah 51:1 - 53:12; Ephesians 5:1-33; Psalm 69:19-36; Proverbs 24:7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 84

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in New Caledonia and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, September 28

Scripture: Isaiah 54:1 - 57:14; Ephesians 6:1-24; Psalm 70:1-5; Proverbs 24:8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 85

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

Friday, September 29

Scripture: Isaiah 57:15 - 59:21; Philippians 1:1-26; Psalm 71:1-24; Proverbs 24:9-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 86

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

Saturday, September 30

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1 - 62:5; Philippians 1:27 - 2:18; Psalm 72:1-20; Proverbs 24:11-12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 87

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

Sunday, October 1

Scripture: Isaiah 62:6 - 65:25; Philippians 2:19 - 3:3; Psalm 73:1-28; Proverbs 24:13-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 88

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

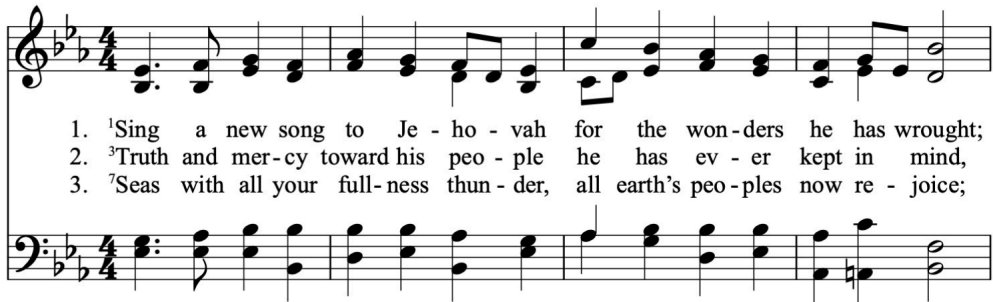
We are commanded to live worthily as citizens of heaven on earth, which entails standing firm in the Spirit, striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not being frightened by our opponents. But all this comes from God! He sovereignly grants the worth necessary to live worthily through Christ. He is the beginning and end of the Christian life, from faith to suffering to salvation. Everything is a gift. This should encourage our hearts to endure what he has ordained for our good and his glory, even though that is easier said than done.

Commenting on Paul's words in Philippians 1:28, "and that from God," John Calvin writes:

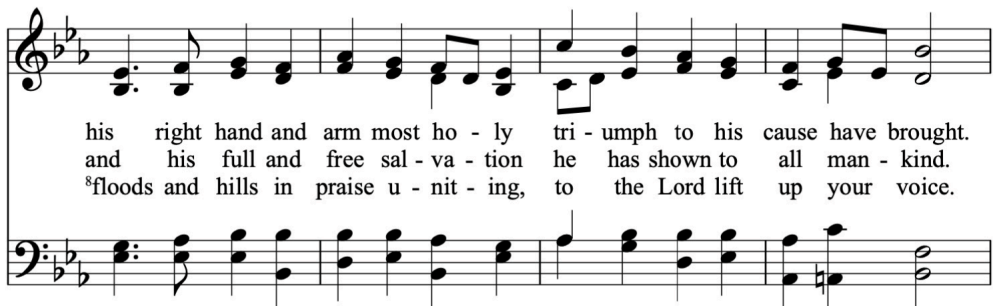
This is restricted to the last clause, that a taste of the grace of God may allay the bitterness of the cross. No one will naturally perceive the cross a token or evidence of salvation, for they are things that are contrary in appearance. Hence Paul calls the attention of the Philippians to another consideration—that God by his blessing turns into an occasion of welfare things that might otherwise seem to render us miserable. He proves it from this, that the endurance of the cross is the gift of God. Now it is certain, that all the gifts of God are salutary to us. *To you*, says he, *it is given, not only to believe in Christ, but also to suffer for him*. Hence even the sufferings themselves are evidences of the grace of God; and, since it is so, you have from this source a token of salvation. Oh, if this persuasion were effectually inwrought in our minds—that persecutions are to be reckoned among God's benefits, what progress would be made in the doctrine of piety! And yet, what is more certain, than that it is the highest honour that is conferred upon us by Divine grace, that we suffer for his name either reproach, or imprisonment, or miseries, or tortures, or even death, for in that case he adorns us with his marks of distinction. But more will be found that will rather bid God retire with gifts of that nature, than embrace with alacrity the cross when it is presented to them. Alas, then, for our stupidity!

1. How does the world define a person's "worth"? How does a person maintain their "worth"? Ultimately, where does their worth lie, and how precarious is their value as a human being?
2. Aristotle said, "A person who does righteous things is righteous." In other words, doing precedes being. But are we righteous because we do righteous things, worthy because we live worthily? Or, does the gospel flip the order: being precedes doing? Does it even matter?
3. Read Ephesians 4:1-7 and 1 Thessalonians 2:11-13. How should the command to "walk worthily" be informed by the promises of the gospel? (See esp. Ephesians 1:3-11 and 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10.)
4. Read 1 Peter 2:21. Martin Luther said that we must look to Christ as a gift before example, or else we basically become a moralist. How do you receive "Christ also suffered for you" (1 Peter 2:21) as a gift before "follow[ing] in his steps" and "suffering for Christ" (Philippians 1:29)?
5. What do you think it was that moved Thomas Cranmer from cowardice to courage?
6. How does the Lord use suffering in the lives of believers? Can we really say it is a gift (Philippians 1:29)?
7. What hostile opposition do you foresee the church enduring in the coming years? How should she fight that battle?

Sing a New Song to Jehovah



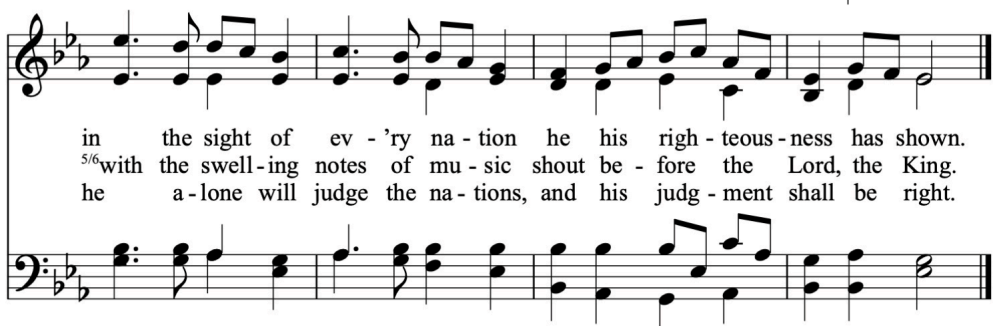
1. ¹Sing a new song to Je - ho - vah for the won - ders he has wrought;
 2. ³Truth and mer - cy toward his peo - ple he has ev - er kept in mind,
 3. ⁷Seas with all your full - ness thun - der, all earth's peo - ples now re - joice;



his right hand and arm most ho - ly tri - umph to his cause have brought.
 and his full and free sal - va - tion he has shown to all man - kind.
⁸floods and hills in praise u - nit - ing, to the Lord lift up your voice.



²In his love and ten - der mer - cy he has made sal - va - tion known,
⁴Sing, O earth, sing, to Je - ho - vah, prais - es to Je - ho - vah sing;
⁹For, be - hold, the Lord is com - ing, robed in jus - tice and in might;



in the sight of ev - 'ry na - tion he his righ - teous - ness has shown.
^{5/6}with the swell - ing notes of mu - sic shout be - fore the Lord, the King.
 he a - lone will judge the na - tions, and his judg - ment shall be right.