

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 28, 2024

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 91 (p. 817 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—

then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;

you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

“Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him;

“I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

“He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble,

I will deliver him and honor him.

“With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

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

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

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we join with your Church around the world, with Christians now in heaven, and with the heavenly host of angels to declare that you are holy, holy, holy; the whole earth is full of your glory.

All: As we think about your holiness, we recognize our unworthiness all the more. We confess that we have sinned against you and others. All the wrongs we have done are not hidden from you. Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Enable us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

All: We ask all this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, 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

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 49:1-28

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart.
I know that while in heav'n he stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die.
My soul is purchased by his blood!
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God. 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*

Revelation 5

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 50:1-6])

Hymn 316

The Mighty God, the Lord

The mighty God, the Lord,
Hath spoken unto all;
From rising to the setting sun,
He unto earth doth call.
From Zion, his own hill,
Where perfect beauty dwells,
Jehovah hath his glory shown,
In brightness that excels.

Our God shall surely come,
And silence shall not keep;
Before him fire shall waste, and storms
Tempestuous round him sweep.
He to the heav'ns above
Shall then send forth his call,
And likewise to the earth, that he
May judge his people all.

“Together let my saints
Unto me gathered be,
Those that by sacrifice have made
A covenant with me.”
Then shall the heav'ns declare
His righteousness abroad;
Because the Lord himself is judge,
Yea, none is judge, but God. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Lion of the Tribe of Judah”
Genesis 49:1-28

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 500

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee. 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.*

SERMON NOTES

“The Lion of the Tribe of Judah”
Genesis 49:1-28

This passage is poetic, prophetic, and not prescriptive.

1. A summary of Jacob’s prophetic words to each of his sons.
2. Jacob’s prophetic words to Judah. Judah’s tribe would be marked by:
Glory and strength (vv. 8-9)
Kingship (v. 10)
Abundance of joy and prosperity (vv. 11-12)
3. Jacob’s prophetic words about Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah:
Glory and strength (Revelation 5)
Kingship (Revelation 5)
Abundance of joy and prosperity (John 2:1-11; Revelation 5)

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, January 29

Scripture: Exodus 8:1 - 9:35; Matthew 19:13-30; Psalm 24:1-10; Proverbs 6:1-5

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 31

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

Tuesday, January 30

Scripture: Exodus 10:1 - 12:13; Matthew 20:1-28; Psalm 25:1-15; Proverbs 6:6-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 84

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

Wednesday, January 31

Scripture: Exodus 12:14 - 13:16; Matthew 20:29 - 21:22; Ps. 25:16-22; Prov. 6:12-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 85

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

Thursday, February 1

Scripture: Exodus 13:17 - 15:18; Matthew 21:23-46; Psalm 26:1-12; Proverbs 6:16-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 86

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

Friday, February 2

Scripture: Exodus 15:19 - 17:7; Matthew 22:1-33; Psalm 27:1-6; Proverbs 6:20-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 87

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, February 3

Scripture: Exodus 17:8 - 19:15; Matthew 22:34 - 23:12; Ps. 27:7-14; Proverbs 6:27-35

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 88

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

Sunday, February 4

Scripture: Exodus 19:16 - 21:21; Matthew 23:13-39; Psalm 28:1-9; Proverbs 7:1-5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 89

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

When Jacob gathered his sons around him to bless them, some of the blessings sounded more like curses. This is because Reuben, Simeon, and Levi had all sinned against their father and against the Lord, and Jacob was expressing the consequences his sons would face. While Jacob's words toward some of his sons were harsh, he pointed all of his sons toward the grace and salvation that they would find in the promised Savior that would come from Judah's line. They all needed God's saving grace, especially for what they did in selling Joseph into slavery and deceiving their father into believing Joseph had been killed. Jacob rightly pointed them to the grace that comes by faith alone in Christ alone.

God's Word through Jacob was fulfilled centuries later when Christ was born. Through his obedient life and atoning death, Christ paid the penalty for the sins of his people and secured for them eternal life. Christ is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, who conquered sin and protects his people, ensuring that we will dwell with him forever in his Kingdom. Iain Duguid, in his commentary on Genesis, writes:

In due time, the Promised One will come again. Next time, Jesus will not come riding into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey; rather, he will come on the clouds in glorious triumph to consummate his marriage to his bride, the church. He will not come to bring blessing simply to the physical descendants of Jacob, but also to all those who are his spiritual heirs in faith. Are you waiting patiently for that return, looking with longing faith to Christ as your only hope of acceptance and blessing before God? As you and I trust in Christ, we become part of the redeemed community of God's people. We still wrestle with ongoing sin and its bitter fruit, but now we start to give Jesus the obedience that belongs to him, as the Holy Spirit works change in our hearts. In the face of the ugliness of our sin, we find comfort in the beauty of his holiness. As we endure difficult circumstances in life, we look forward to the fullness of his kingdom. We long for the day when his people from every tribe, nation, and language will gather around the throne, singing praises to the Lion of Judah, slain for them.

1. Read Genesis 49:8-9. What do these images of Judah's promised descendant mean? What do they reveal about Christ?
2. Read Genesis 49:10. How does this verse connect with 2 Samuel 7 and the covenant promise of an eternal King from David's royal line? How did Christ fulfill this covenant promise?
3. Read Genesis 49:11-12. How were these verses fulfilled in John 2:1-11? Why is it significant that Christ's ministry was marked by an abundance of wine, and how might meditating upon that truth help increase your joy in him?
4. Read Revelation 5. Why is Christ described as both a Lion and a Lamb? How do both of these images and what they represent comfort and encourage you in your fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil?