

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Psalm 103:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 96 (p. 819 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;

tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."

The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; they will sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

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

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

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song;
To every land the strains belong.
In cheerful sound all voices raise
And fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends your word.
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God, we approach you as your children, filled with your Holy Spirit by whom we are enabled and emboldened to cry, "Abba! Father!"

All: Though we approach as your children, we confess that we have not behaved as those who are called by your name. We have sinned against you and others, and it grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, and enable us by grace to walk in your ways. Work in us by your Holy Spirit so that we will always seek to do what is pleasing in your sight.

All: We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Prophet, Priest, and King, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Ezekiel 36:25-28

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 107:1-22

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

(music printed on p. 12)

Glory Be to God the Father

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
God Almighty, Three in One!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to him alone.

Glory be to him who loved us,
Washed us from all sin and stain;
Glory be to him who bought us,
Made us kings with him to reign!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels,
Glory to the church's King,
Glory to the King of nations;
Heav'n and earth your praises bring!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
To the King of glory sing!

“Glory, blessing, praise eternal!”
Thus the choir of angels sings.
“Honor, glory, power, dominion!”
Thus its praise creation brings.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the mighty King of kings! 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*

John 21:15-25

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 67])

Hymn 437

O God, to Us Show Mercy

O God, to us show mercy and bless us in your grace;
Cause now to shine upon us the brightness of your face;
That so your way most holy on earth may soon be known,
And unto ev'ry people your saving grace be shown.

O God, let all men praise you, let all the nations sing;
In ev'ry land let praises and songs of gladness ring;
For you shall judge the people in truth and righteousness,
And through the earth the nations shall your just rule confess.

O God, let people praise you, let all the nations sing,
For earth in rich abundance to us her fruit shall bring.
The Lord our God shall bless us, our God shall blessing send,
And all the earth shall fear him to its remotest end. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Grace and Peace”

2 Peter 1:1-2

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day;

Christ on the road to Calvary.

Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then

Nailed to a cross of wood.

This the pow’r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain written on your face,

Bearing the awesome weight of sin.

Ev’ry bitter thought, ev’ry evil deed

Crowning your bloodstained brow.

This the pow’r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath

Quakes as its Maker bows his head.

Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life—

“Finished!” the victory cry.

This the pow’r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,

For through your suff’ring I am free.

Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,

Won through your selfless love!

This the pow’r of the cross: Son of God—slain for us.

What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross. 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, February 26

Scripture: Leviticus 19:1 - 20:21; Mark 8:11-38; Psalm 42:1-11; Proverbs 10:17

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 2

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

Tuesday, February 27

Scripture: Leviticus 20:22 - 22:16; Mark 9:1-29; Psalm 43:1-5; Proverbs 10:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 1

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

Wednesday, February 28

Scripture: Leviticus 22:17 - 23:44; Mark 9:30 - 10:12; Psalm 44:1-8; Proverbs 10:19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 2

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

Thursday, February 29

Scripture: Leap Day — you may choose your own reading.

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 3

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

Friday, March 1

Scripture: Leviticus 24:1 - 25:46; Mark 10:13-31; Psalm 44:9-26; Proverbs 10:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 4

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

Saturday, March 2

Scripture: Leviticus 25:47 - 27:13; Mark 10:32-52; Psalm 45:1-17; Proverbs 10:22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 5

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

Sunday, March 3

Scripture: Leviticus 27:14 - Numbers 1:54; Mark 11:1-26; Psalm 46:1-11; Prov. 10:23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 6

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
Christ Bible Institute | Nagoya, Japan

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The Apostle Peter wrote this second letter to Christians who were suffering under persecution and the despair that results from being led astray by false teachers. Peter wrote to remind them about the central truths of the gospel of grace and thereby to encourage them to persevere in their faith in Jesus Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life. While this letter was written to Christians nearly 2,000 years ago, it applies to all Christians throughout the ages who trust in Christ and who desire to grow in their faith in him. R.C. Sproul, in his commentary on 2 Peter, writes:

If you received a letter written to you personally from God, you would read it repeatedly until you knew every word and every subtle nuance in the text, because you were being informed by a knowledge that comes from God himself. I am firmly convinced that we have this very thing in sacred Scripture, which is why we never graduate from the school of Christ. We are always to be learning more deeply, more carefully, and more accurately the things that are written *to us* in the Word of God.

1. What do you know about Peter from the four gospels, the book of Acts, and the other New Testament books in which he is mentioned? How does Peter's growth in grace encourage you in your own walk with Christ?
2. Read Romans 6:20-23. What does it mean to be a slave of Satan, sin, and death? What does it mean to be a slave of Christ? How does being a slave of Christ actually produce true freedom?
3. Read Mark 3:13-19. Who were the apostles and what was their role in the early church? In what way are we also "sent out" by Christ into the world?
4. Read the following passages about Christ's divinity: John 1:1; 20:28; Titus 2:13; Romans 9:5; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 5:20. How does knowing that Christ is both God and Savior encourage and embolden you in your faith?
5. Why did Jesus refer to his disciples as "friends" in John 15:15? What does this reveal about your relationship with him? How have you seen your relationship with him grow and mature over the years?

Glory Be to God the Father

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1. Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to God the Son,
 2. Glo - ry be to him who loved us, washed us from all sin and stain;
 3. Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, glo - ry to the church -'s King,
 4. "Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal!" Thus the choir of an - gels sings.

glo - ry be to God the Spir - it, God Al - might - y, Three in One!
 glo - ry be to him who bought us, made us kings with him to reign!
 glo - ry to the King of na - tions; heav'n and earth your prais - es bring!
 "Hon - or, glo - ry, power, do - min - ion!" Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings.

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry be to him a - lone.
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise the Lamb that once was slain!
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! To the King of glo - ry sing!
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise the might - y King of kings!