

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 4, 2024

I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

Psalm 34:4-5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 67 (p. 808 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us,

**that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.**

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.

**May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

Then the land will yield its harvest,
and God, our God, will bless us.

**God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

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

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

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad his wonderful Name;
The Name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh—his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right,
All glory and pow'r, and wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing for infinite love. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we marvel today that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We were your enemies, living in stubborn opposition to your Word, yet you loved us, pursued us, and brought us into your family.

All: We confess that despite the grace we have received in Christ, we have sinned against you and others with our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have failed to honor you and give you the thanks and praise you alone deserve.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and cleanse us from our sins. Work in us by your Word and Spirit, and give us both the desire and the power to do what pleases you.

All: We ask all this through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ, 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 103:8-12

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

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

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 Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 45. *What is the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment is: “You shall have no other gods before me.”

Q. 46. *What is required in the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Q. 47. *What is forbidden in the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment forbids the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving to any other of that worship and glory due to him alone.

Q. 48. *What are we especially taught by the words, “before me,” in the first commandment?*

A. These words, “before me,” in the first commandment teach us that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

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*

Genesis 49:29 - 50:14

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

“What Is Your Only Comfort in Life and Death?”
Genesis 49:29 - 50:26

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 689

Be Still, My Soul

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev’ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav’nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast’ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last. 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.

SERMON NOTES

“What Is Your Only Comfort in Life and Death?”

Genesis 49:29 - 50:26

1. Comfort in Death

Jacob’s death (49:29 - 50:14)

Joseph’s death (50:22-26; Hebrews 11:22)

Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12

Jesus’ death, resurrection, and our assurance of eternal life

Acts 2:24; Romans 6:9; John 11:25-26

2. Comfort in Life (50:15-21)

Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28; Acts 2:23

Q. 1. *What is your only comfort in life and death?*

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, February 5

Scripture: Exodus 21:22 - 23:13; Matthew 24:1-28; Psalm 29:1-11; Proverbs 7:6-23

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 32

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

Tuesday, February 6

Scripture: Exodus 23:14 - 25:40; Matthew 24:29-51; Psalm 30:1-12; Proverbs 7:24-27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 90

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

Wednesday, February 7

Scripture: Exodus 26:1 - 27:21; Matthew 25:1-30; Psalm 31:1-8; Proverbs 8:1-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 91

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

Thursday, February 8

Scripture: Exodus 28:1-43; Matthew 25:31 - 26:13; Psalm 31:9-18; Proverbs 8:12-13

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 92

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

Friday, February 9

Scripture: Exodus 29:1 - 30:10; Matthew 26:14-46; Psalm 31:19-24; Proverbs 8:14-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 93

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

Saturday, February 10

Scripture: Exodus 30:11 - 31:18; Matthew 26:47-68; Psalm 32:1-11; Proverbs 8:27-32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 94

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

Sunday, February 11

Scripture: Exodus 32:1 - 33:23; Matthew 26:69 - 27:14; Psalm 33:1-11; Prov. 8:33-36

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 95

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 book of Genesis describes how God created the world and gave life to Adam and Eve. It goes on to explain how Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought themselves and the whole human race under the curse of sin and death. By God's grace, this was not the end for humanity. In Genesis 3:15, God promised that he would send a Savior who would triumph over sin and death, and thereby give his people eternal life. The rest of Genesis, and the rest of the Bible, progressively reveals more details about the promised Savior and how he accomplished salvation and secured eternal life for his people. Even though Genesis ends with the deaths of Jacob and Joseph, both of these godly men were looking forward in faith to the promised Savior, Jesus Christ. Jacob and Joseph died in faith knowing that they would be with him in glory. Richard Phillips, in his commentary on Genesis, writes:

In death, Jacob was consoled by his hope of eternal life together with all of God's people (including the soul of his beloved Rachel) and by his title deed to the world to come. His death account concludes with an encouragement for us to embrace the same hope: Jacob "breathed his last and was gathered to his people" (Genesis 49:33). Jacob died in expectation of joining the people of heaven. He died, and he was gathered to them. Here, the Bible assures us that the gospel is more than a comforting story to help us through the trials of life and the passage of death. The gospel message of Jesus is a comfort, of course. But it is also true! Matthew Henry writes, "His separated soul went to the assembly of the souls of the faithful, which, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity." Henry adds, "If God's people be our people, death will gather us to them." It is because our hope is true that believers such as the apostle Paul could live so courageously, being sure that "neither death nor life, ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

1. Spend a few minutes thinking about our study of Genesis and what you learned. What are 2-3 ideas, doctrines, or details that have been particularly impactful for you?
2. Read Genesis 49:29 - 50:14 and 50:22-26. Why did both Jacob and Joseph give such detailed instructions about where they were to be buried? How did this reveal their trust in the Lord's covenant faithfulness, especially in light of Hebrews 11:22?
3. Read Acts 2:24, Romans 6:9, and John 11:25-26. What do these verses say about Christ's victory over death and our assurance of eternal life?
4. Spend a few minutes thinking through Joseph's life and how God's providence was displayed throughout. How does God's providence comfort us in this life according to Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28?
5. How does looking to Christ's death and God's purpose in it help us trust God's providence in our own lives?

Glory Be to God the Father

213

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!