

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**Zechariah 9:9**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing\*

Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 99 (p. 820 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble;

**he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.**

Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.

**Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy.**

The King is mighty, he loves justice—

**you have established equity;**

in Jacob you have done what is just and right.

**Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.**

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name;

**they called on the LORD and he answered them.**

He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;

**they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.**

O LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God,  
though you punished their misdeeds.

**Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain,  
for the LORD our God is holy.**

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

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

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present:  
To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,  
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!  
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! Amen.

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that your commandments are righteous and good. They reveal your holiness, and they teach us how to live as your children in a way that pleases you.

**All:** We confess that we broke your commandments by our careless deeds, our hurtful words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray. Apart from Christ there is nothing in us that gives us reason for hope, yet in him we have received pardon and are clothed in his righteousness. Enable us to wholeheartedly believe your assurance of forgiveness and to live godly, righteous, and devout lives as we await our Savior's return.

**All:** All praise, honor, and glory be to you, O God, through 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**

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Psalm 119:89-112

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month) (sung to “The Church’s One Foundation”)

### *I Have No Other Comfort*

I have no other comfort  
Which life and death endures  
Than that I am my Savior’s,  
Whose death my life secures.  
To you with soul and body,  
O Jesus, I belong;  
You are my only Master  
And my Redeemer strong.

Your blood is full atonement  
For all my sin and guilt;  
The cross is all my glory;  
On you my faith is built.  
And you, my great deliv’rer,  
Are my preserver too;  
You guide all of my footsteps,  
And lead me clearly through.

Whatever things betide me  
Must serve to save my soul;  
The Father watches o’er me  
To keep me safe and whole.  
Yes, by the Holy Spirit  
I fully am assured  
That mine is life eternal  
According to your Word.

And so you make me willing  
With all my heart and mind  
To live for you, my Savior,  
So loving, true, and kind.  
To you with soul and body,  
O Jesus, I belong;  
You are my only Master  
And my Redeemer strong. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 70.** *Which is the seventh commandment?*

**A.** The seventh commandment is, “You shall not commit adultery.”

**Q. 71.** *What is required in the seventh commandment?*

**A.** The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor’s chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

**Q. 72.** *What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?*

**A.** The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.

## 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\*

Matthew 17:1-8

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 72:8, 11-12, 18-19])

Hymn 11

### *Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God*

Now blessed be the Lord our God,  
The God of Israel,  
For he alone does wondrous works  
In glory that excel.

And blessed be his glorious name  
To all eternity;  
The whole earth let his glory fill.  
Amen, so let it be.

His wide dominion shall extend  
From sea to utmost sea,  
And unto earth's remotest bounds  
His peaceful rule shall be.

Yea, all the kings shall bow to him,  
His rule all nations hail;  
He will regard the poor man's cry  
When other helpers fail. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Christ Will Return Gloriously”  
2 Peter 1:16-21

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 310

### ***Rejoice, the Lord Is King***

Rejoice, the Lord is King; your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o’er earth and heav’n;  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv’n.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

He sits at God’s right hand till all his foes submit,  
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,  
And take his servants up to their eternal home.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! Amen.*

## **Benediction\***

### **Congregational Benediction Response\***

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

May the grace of Christ our Savior  
And the Father's boundless love,  
With the Holy Spirit's favor,  
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union  
With each other and the Lord,  
And possess, in sweet communion,  
Joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.





# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, March 25**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-49; Luke 6:39 – 7:10; Psalm 68:1-18; Proverbs 11:28

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 6

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

## **Tuesday, March 26**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1 – 6:25; Luke 7:11-35; Psalm 68:19-35; Proverbs 11:29-31

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 25

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

## **Wednesday, March 27**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 7:1 - 8:20; Luke 7:36 - 8:3; Psalm 69:1-18; Proverbs 12:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 26

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

## **Thursday, March 28**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 9:1 - 10:22; Luke 8:4-21; Psalm 69:19-36; Proverbs 12:2-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 27

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

## **Friday, March 29**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 11:1 - 12:32; Luke 8:22-39; Psalm 70:1-5; Proverbs 12:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 28

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

## **Saturday, March 30**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 13:1 - 15:23; Luke 8:40 - 9:6; Psalm 71:1-24; Proverbs 12:5-7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 29

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

## **Sunday, March 31**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 16:1 - 17:20; Luke 9:7-27; Psalm 72:1-20; Proverbs 12:8-9

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 30

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

We confess the Nicene Creed every month at our church because it is a historic creed that summarizes the essentials of our Christian faith. One of the essentials in the creed is that we believe Christ “will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead.” The Bible does not teach that history is cyclical; it is linear. All of history, which began at creation, is drawing to a point, which is the consummation of all things when Christ will return with glory. This was God’s plan from the beginning. This reveals that God had a purpose both in creation and redemption, and the focus of that purpose was the glory of Christ through the redemption of his people. Brandon Crowe, in his book, *The Message of the General Epistles in the History of Redemption*, writes:

The return of Jesus and the salvation he will bring also points us to the uniqueness and universal greatness of Christ. Peter himself was an eyewitness of Jesus’ majesty (2 Peter 1:16), which is the anticipation of the majesty that will be revealed when Jesus returns. This is the glory of the second person of the Trinity. There is no one else who has existed from all eternity as the divine Son, no one else who came to earth and lived a perfect life, no one else who has died and defeated death by rising again, and no one else who has ascended to the Father’s right hand. Jesus now lives and reigns supreme in the heavenly realms with all his spiritual enemies being made a footstool for his feet (Eph. 1:20–23). Jesus has no peer in this regard. There is no other name given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12) because no one else is fully God and fully man, and thus able to atone for our sins as a man and able to raise us to God as the divine Son. Jesus has a greatness that far outshines all created beings in the universe. Jesus created all things and upholds all things by the word of his power (Heb. 1:2). He is the one Judge of the living and the dead, the One to whom all men must give account (Acts 10:42; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1). He is the One who will return to earth physically and visibly, and every eye will see him. The day of visitation will be the end of the world as we know it, when Christ will usher in his righteous and eternal kingdom.

1. For review, read 2 Peter 1:1-15. How would you summarize what you have learned so far in Peter’s letter?
2. Read 2 Peter 1:16-18 and Matthew 17:1-8. What was the significance of Jesus’ transfiguration? Why does Peter refer to it as he defends the truth of Christ’s return with glory?
3. How was the Father a witness to Jesus’ glory at his transfiguration? What does this reveal about the unity of the Godhead?
4. How do the Scriptures witness to Jesus’ glory according to 2 Peter 1:19-21? How might you apply this truth when it comes to how you read Scripture?
5. Read Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 52. How does being certain of Christ’s return with glory help you live with confidence, peace, and anticipation?