

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Salvation belongs to the LORD;
your blessing be on your people!

Psalm 3:8

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 72:1-19 (p. 810 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

**He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy;
he will crush the oppressor.**

He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

In his days the righteous will flourish, prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him;

the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts.

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.

He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him.

May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.

Let grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway.

Let its fruit flourish like Lebanon; let it thrive like the grass of the field.

May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.

All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and Amen.

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

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Law which reveals your holiness and our sinfulness.

All: The First Commandment of your Law is, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

Leader: We confess that though you are the God who brought us out of slavery to Satan, sin, and death through Jesus Christ, we have sinned against you by trusting in our own strength and not giving you the glory and honor that you alone deserve. Forgive us and enable us to prioritize you in our lives by worshipping you and seeking to live for your glory and praise.

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

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*

Leviticus 20:22-26

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

(music printed on p. 12)

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. 57. *Which is the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment is “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Q. 58. *What is required in the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself.

Q. 59. *Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?*

A. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath.

Q. 60. *How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?*

A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God’s worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Q. 61. *What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment forbids the omission, or careless performance, of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Q. 62. *What are the reasons attached to the fourth commandment?*

A. The reasons attached to the fourth commandment are, God’s allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the Sabbath day.

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.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Ephesians 4:17-32

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

“Partakers of the Divine Nature”

2 Peter 1:3-4

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 465

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the Refuge, the mighty cross.

Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, what can avail to wash it away?
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide; whiter than snow you may be today.

Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin. 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

“Partakers of the Divine Nature”

2 Peter 1:3-4

1. God, through Christ, has given us all that we need to live for him.
Philippians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24
2. We are assured of this in the Bible.
2 Timothy 3:14-17
3. We are assured of this through regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.
2 Corinthians 3:18

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, March 4

Scripture: Numbers 2:1 - 3:51; Mark 11:27 - 12:17; Psalm 47:1-9; Proverbs 10:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 3

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

Tuesday, March 5

Scripture: Numbers 4:1 - 5:31; Mark 12:18-37; Psalm 48:1-14; Proverbs 10:26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 7

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

Wednesday, March 6

Scripture: Numbers 6:1 - 7:89; Mark 12:38 - 13:13; Psalm 49:1-20; Proverbs 10:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 8

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Poland and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, March 7

Scripture: Numbers 8:1 - 9:23; Mark 13:14-37; Psalm 50:1-23; Proverbs 10:29-30

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 9

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

Friday, March 8

Scripture: Numbers 10:1 - 11:23; Mark 14:1-21; Psalm 51:1-19; Proverbs 10:31-32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 10

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

The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, March 9

Scripture: Numbers 11:24 - 13:33; Mark 14:22-52; Psalm 52:1-9; Proverbs 11:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 11

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

Sunday, March 10

Scripture: Numbers 14:1 - 15:16; Mark 14:53-72; Psalm 53:1-6; Proverbs 11:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 12

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 see big and small changes in ourselves and in things around us every day. The seasons change, society changes, and the technology around us also changes rapidly. But when it comes to the change that takes place in a person's life when he is brought from death to life in Jesus Christ, that change is the most dramatic thing a person could ever experience in this life. The Bible explains that when a person is regenerated, he is transformed and brought out of the kingdom of Satan and into the Kingdom of Christ. The old has passed away, the new has come. William VanDoodewaard, in his commentary on 2 Peter, writes:

The change that takes place as a sinner is saved by the divine power of God, and set apart to a new, growing life of holiness in communion with God, reflects another profound reality. Not only have we become partakers in the divine nature, we have also 'escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire' (1:4). An amazing deliverance has taken place. We were once spiritually dead in our sins. We were walking in the ways of a fallen world, following Satan's lead, pursuing our own passions as children of wrath. God, in his rich mercy, because of his great love, provided escape. By his divine power he has given everything for our salvation in Christ. "Amazing love, how can it be?"

1. For review, read 2 Peter 1:1-2. What is the significance of Peter identifying himself as a "servant" of Christ? Why does he also identify himself as an "apostle" of Christ?
2. Read 2 Peter 1:3 and Philippians 3:7-11. How has God displayed his divine power in saving us through Christ?
3. Read 2 Peter 1:3 again and 2 Timothy 3:14-17. How does the Bible enable us to know God? How does this knowledge benefit us? What promises do you find most encouraging for yourself in Scripture?
4. Read 2 Peter 1:4. How do we become "partakers of the divine nature" through regeneration, sanctification, and glorification? Compare this passage with 2 Corinthians 3:18. How does this encourage you in your life and pursuit of godliness?

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I Have No Other Comfort

1. I have no oth - er com - fort which life and death en - dures
 2. Your blood is full a - tone - ment for all my sin and guilt;
 3. What - ev - er things be - tide me must serve to save my soul;
 4. And so you make me wil - ling with all my heart and mind

than that I am my Sav - ior's, whose death my life se - cures.
 the cross is all my glo - ry; on you my faith is built.
 the Fa - ther watch - es o'er me to keep me safe and whole.
 to live for you, my Sav - ior, so lov - ing, true, and kind.

To you with soul and bod - y, O Je - sus, I be - long;
 And you, my great de - liv - 'rer, are my pre - serv - er too;
 Yes, by the Ho - ly Spir - it I ful - ly am as - sured
 To you with soul and bod - y, O Je - sus, I be - long;

you are my on - ly Mas - ter and my Re - deem - er strong.
 you guide all of my foot - steps, and lead me clear - ly through.
 that mine is life e - ter - nal ac - cord - ing to your Word.
 you are my on - ly Mas - ter and my Re - deem - er strong.