

WORSHIP SERVICE

May 12, 2024

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 24 (p. 791 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

**for he founded it upon the seas and
established it upon the waters.**

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.**

He will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God his Savior.

**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.**

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

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

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

A hymn of glory let us sing; new songs thro'out the world shall ring: *Alleluia! Alleluia!*
 Christ, by a road before untrod, ascendeth to the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand; *Alleluia! Alleluia!*
 And with his followers they see Jesus' resplendent majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

To whom the angels, drawing nigh: "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" *Alleluia! Alleluia!*
 "This is the Savior," thus they say, "this is his noble triumph day."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Again shall ye behold him so as ye today have seen him go, *Alleluia! Alleluia!*
 In glorious pomp ascending high, up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: We praise you, our God and King, because you are holy and good. Your unfailing love is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Thank you for the loving kindness you have shown us in Jesus Christ. While we were still sinners, he died for us.

All: We confess that though you have blessed us with eternal riches in Christ, we have preferred the ways of this world. We have rebelled against your wisdom and sought after foolishness. We have rejected your fatherly commands and have done what is right in our own eyes.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Help us not to grow weary of doing good, but instead fill us with devotion to you and love for others that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.

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

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 5:6-9

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalms 110

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Here Is Love

Here is love, vast as the ocean, loving-kindness as a flood,
When the Prince of life, our Ransom, shed for us his precious blood.
Who his love will not remember? Who can cease to sing his praise?
He can never be forgotten, throughout heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion, fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above,
Heaven's peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love.

Here is love that conquered evil: Christ, the firstborn from the grave;
Death has failed to be found equal to the life of him who saves.
In the valley of our darkness dawned his everlasting light;
Perfect love in glorious radiance has repelled death's hellish night.

That same love beyond all measure, mocked and slain by hateful men,
Lives and reigns in resurrection and can never die again.
Here is love for all the ages, radiant Son of heav'n he stands,
Calling home his Father's children, holding forth his wounded hands.

Here is love, vast as the heavens; countless as the stars above
Are the souls that he has ransomed, precious daughters, treasured sons.
We are called to feast forever on a love beyond our time;
Glorious Father, Son, and Spirit now with man are intertwined. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 85. *What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?*

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance to life, with the diligent use of all the outward means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.

Q. 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?*

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, by which we receive and rest on him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 87. *What is repentance to life?*

A. Repentance to life is a saving grace, by which a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and understanding of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it to God, with full intention of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

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*

Acts 1:1-11

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 142])

(music printed on p. 12)

I Cry for Mercy to the LORD

I cry for mercy to the LORD;
To him I lift my voice in prayer.
Before the LORD I bring my plea;
To him my trouble I declare.

Each time my spirit faints in me,
You know my path, you know my way;
For hidden on the path I walk,
A deadly snare for me they lay.

When looking to the right, I see
That no one is concerned for me;
There's no one who will guard my soul,
No hiding place where I can flee.

I cry to you, O LORD, my God.
I say to you amid the strife,
"You are my trust and hiding place,
My portion in the land of life."

LORD, I am humbled, very low;
Attend my cry and hear my plea.
From strong oppressors set me free,
For they are much too strong for me.

LORD, out of bondage bring my soul,
That I may give your name all praise.
The righteous then will join with me,
For you have shown to me your grace. Amen.

Professions of Faith

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“We Have Our Flesh in Heaven”
Acts 1:1-11

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

(sung to *The Church’s One Foundation*)

More Than Conquerors

All hail the mighty Conqueror, Christ Jesus, our great King!
All hail the glorious Warrior, to whom our praise we bring.
May he be given honors by all his ransomed host:
We, too, are more than conquerors who make his name our boast.

Yet how can we inherit this title “conqueror” too?
We have not earned the merit or fame that is his due.
For we have only failed him by ev’ry sin and doubt;
Indeed, we cruelly nailed him and cast the Conqueror out.

But rising up victorious he conquered death and sin,
And reigns in heaven glorious, each conflict set to win.
To those of his own choosing he shares the victory;
Says, “Though you once were losing, come conquer now through me.”

“You cannot be defeated by trials in this life.
The conquest is completed o’er Satan, sin, and strife.
No pain, no tribulation, no danger, famine, sword,
No—nothing in creation can conquer those in God.”

Now since our God is for us what have we then to fear?
Though enemies deplore us, we face them all with cheer.
For we will be triumphant: each foe will be trod down
Beneath the Christ exultant, who shares the Conqueror’s crown. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

Hymn 290

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

Hail the day that sees him rise *Alleluia!*
To his throne above the skies; *Alleluia!*
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, *Alleluia!*
Enters now the highest heav'n. *Alleluia!*

There for him high triumph waits; *Alleluia!*
Lift your heads, eternal gates, *Alleluia!*
He hath conquered death and sin, *Alleluia!*
Take the King of glory in! *Alleluia!*

See, he lifts his hands above! *Alleluia!*
See, he shows the prints of love! *Alleluia!*
Hark! his gracious lips bestow *Alleluia!*
Blessings on his church below. *Alleluia!*

Lord, beyond our mortal sight, *Alleluia!*
Raise our hearts to reach thy height; *Alleluia!*
There thy face unclouded see, *Alleluia!*
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in thee! *Alleluia!* Amen.

SERMON NOTES

“We Have Our Flesh in Heaven”

Acts 1:1-11

1. Jesus' ascension marked the victorious end of his ministry for us on earth.

Humiliation (Philippians 2:5-8; John 17:4)

Exaltation (Philippians 2:9-11; Acts 1:9)

2. Jesus' ascension marked the beginning of his ministry for us in heaven.

Power: session at the right hand of the Father (Psalm 110:1; Eph. 1:20-21)

Prayer: intercession as our Great High Priest (Rev. 12:8-10; 1 John 2:1; Heb. 4:14-16)

3. Jesus' ascension is the assurance that he will return for us on the Last Day.

Acts 1:11; John 14:3

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, May 13

Scripture: 1 Samuel 14:1-52; John 7:31-53; Psalm 109:1-31; Proverbs 15:5-7

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 13

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

Tuesday, May 14

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1 - 16:23; John 8:1-20; Psalm 110:1-7; Proverbs 15:8-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 67

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

Wednesday, May 15

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1 - 18:4; John 8:21-30; Psalm 111:1-10; Proverbs 15:11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 68

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Saint Kitts & Nevis and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, May 16

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:5 - 19:24; John 8:31-59; Psalm 112:1-10; Proverbs 15:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 69

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

Friday, May 17

Scripture: 1 Samuel 20:1 - 21:15; John 9:1-41; Psalm 113:1 - 114:8; Proverbs 15:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 70

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

Saturday, May 18

Scripture: 1 Samuel 22:1 - 23:29; John 10:1-21; Psalm 115:1-18; Proverbs 15:18-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 71

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

Sunday, May 19

Scripture: 1 Samuel 24:1 - 25:44; John 10:22-42; Psalm 116:1-19; Proverbs 15:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 72

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

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

Greeting and Call to Worship*

Psalm 66:1-7

Leader: Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.”

All: Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

Hymn*

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” Hymn 646

Congregational Confession of Sin

Gracious God, the Lord Jesus tells us in Scripture that we must be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. We acknowledge that these words are challenging and discouraging. As we consider how we have acted and what we have thought about this past week, we confess that we have not lived perfectly. Forgive us, we pray, and grant us both the desire and the ability to do what pleases you. We praise you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the perfect obedience of Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Revelation 1:5-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

“O Lord Most High, with All My Heart” Hymn 48

Scripture Reading*

Ephesians 6:10-20

Hymn

“According to Thy Gracious Word” Hymn 423

Prayer

Sermon

“The Breastplate of Righteousness”

Pastor Ben Muresan

Ephesians 6:14

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Hymn*

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” Hymn 520

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.

I Cry for Mercy to the LORD

142

1. ¹I cry for mer - cy to the LORD; to him I
 2. ³Each time my spir - it faints in me, you know my
 3. ⁴When look - ing to the right, I see that no one
 4. ⁵I cry to you, O LORD, my God. I say to
 5. ⁶LORD, I am hum - bled, ver - y low; at - tend my

lift my voice in prayer. ²Be - fore the LORD I
 path, you know my way; for hid - den on the
 • is con - cerned for me; there's no one who will
 you a - mid the strife, "You are my trust and
 cry and hear my plea. From strong op - pres - sors

bring my plea; to him my trou - ble I de - clare.
 path I walk, a dead - ly snare for me they lay.
 • guard my soul, no hid - ing place where I can flee.
 hid - ing place, my por - tion in the land of life."
 set me free, for they are much too strong for me.

6. ⁷LORD, out of bondage bring my soul,
 that I may give your name all praise.
 The righteous then will join with me,
 for you have shown to me your grace.