

WORSHIP SERVICE

May 19, 2024

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:13-14

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 84 (p. 814 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

**My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—

a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob.

Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor;

no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

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

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

Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit

Come, O come, thou quick'ning Spirit, God from all eternity!
May thy power never fail us; dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light banish all the gloom of night.

Grant our hearts in fullest measure wisdom, counsel, purity,
That we ever may be seeking only that which pleaseth thee.
Let thy knowledge spread and grow, working error's overthrow.

Show us, Lord, the path of blessing; when we trespass on our way,
Cast, O Lord, our sins behind thee and be with us day by day.
Should we stray, O Lord, recall; work repentance when we fall.

Holy Spirit, strong and mighty, thou who makest all things new,
Make thy work within us perfect and the evil foe subdue.
Grant us weapons for the strife and with vict'ry crown our life. 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 cause us 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

Jeremiah 31:33-34

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Ezekiel 36:22-32

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. 88. *What are the outward means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?*

A. The outward and ordinary means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all of which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

Q. 89. *How is the Word made effectual to salvation?*

A. The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith to salvation.

Q. 90. *How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?*

A. That the Word may become effectual to salvation we must attend to it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love; lay it up in our hearts; and practice it in our lives.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

Doxology*

Hymn 732

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*

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.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Pentecost: The Answer to How Christ Who Is in Heaven
Works in His Church on Earth”
Acts 1:1-11

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 335

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would gracious be;
And with words that help and heal would thy life in mine reveal;
And with actions bold and meek would for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would truthful be;
And with wisdom kind and clear let thy life in mine appear;
And with actions brotherly speak my Lord’s sincerity.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would mighty be;
Mighty so as to prevail where unaided man must fail;
Ever by a mighty hope pressing on and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would holy be;
Se-pa-rate from sin, I would—choose and cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be, give to him who gave me thee! Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response* Hymn 339 (sung to *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*)

For Your Gift of God the Spirit

For your gift of God the Spirit, pow'r to make our lives anew,
Pledge of life and hope of glory, Savior, we would worship you.
Crowning gift of resurrection sent from your ascended throne,
Fullness of the very Godhead, come to make your life our own.

He who in creation's dawning brooded on the lifeless deep,
Still across our nature's darkness moves to wake our souls from sleep,
Moves to stir, to draw, to quicken, thrusts us through with sense of sin;
Brings to birth and seals and fills us—saving Advocate within.

He, himself the living Author, wakes to life the sacred Word,
Reads with us its holy pages and reveals our risen Lord.
He it is who works within us, teaching rebel hearts to pray,
He whose holy intercessions rise for us both night and day.

He, the mighty God, in-dwells us; his to strengthen, help, empow'r;
His to overcome the tempter, ours to call in danger's hour.
In his strength we dare to battle all the raging hosts of sin,
And by him alone we conquer foes without and foes within.

Father, grant your Holy Spirit in our hearts may rule today,
Grieved not, quenched not, but unhindered, work in us his sovereign way.
Fill us with your holy fullness, God the Father, Spirit, Son;
In us, through us, then, forever, shall your perfect will be done. Amen.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, May 20

Scripture: 1 Samuel 26:1 - 28:25; John 11:1-54; Psalm 117:1-2; Proverbs 15:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 14

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

Tuesday, May 21

Scripture: 1 Sam. 29:1 - 31:13; John 11:55 - 12:19; Psalm 118:1-18; Proverbs 15:24-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 73

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

Wednesday, May 22

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1 - 2:11; John 12:20-50; Psalm 118:19-29; Proverbs 15:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 74

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Saint Lucia and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, May 23

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:12 - 3:39; John 13:1-30; Psalm 119:1-16; Proverbs 15:29-30

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 75

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

Friday, May 24

Scripture: 2 Samuel 4:1 - 6:23; John 13:31 - 14:14; Psalm 119:17-32; Prov. 15:31-32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 76

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

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

Saturday, May 25

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1 - 8:18; John 14:15-31; Psalm 119:33-48; Proverbs 15:33

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 77

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

Sunday, May 26

Scripture: 2 Samuel 9:1 - 11:27; John 15:1-27; Psalm 119:49-64; Proverbs 16:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 78

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 GATHERING for PRAYER and HYMNS

Scripture Reading and Opening Prayer

Hymn 57 “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul”

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

Devotion

Hymn 94 “How Firm a Foundation”

Prayer for Church Members

Hymn 551 “How Blest Is He Whose Trespass”

Prayer for Our Nation

Hymn 348 “Jesus, with Thy Church Abide”

Prayer for Our Missionaries and The Shepherd’s Church Plant

Hymn 129 “I Belong to Jesus”

Closing Prayer

I Cry for Mercy to the LORD

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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.