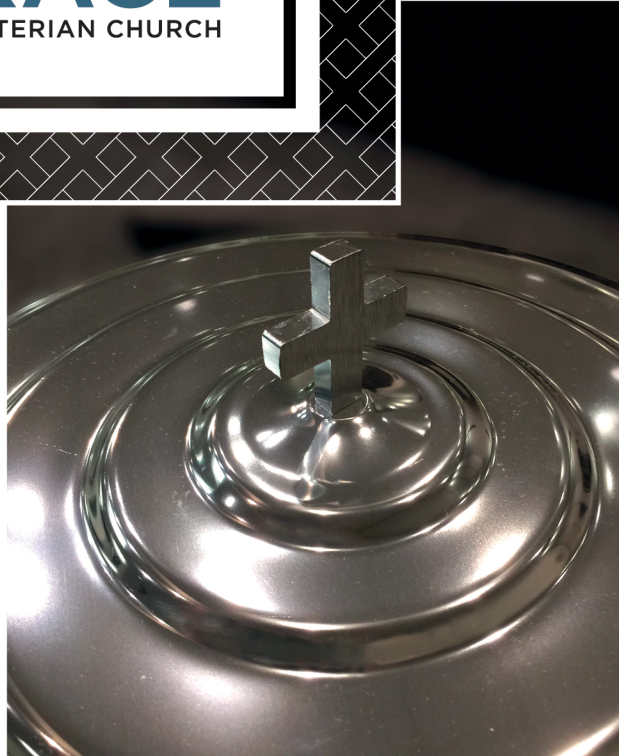


 **GRACE**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

January 5, 2025

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Psalm 13:5-6

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 13 (p. 787 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

**How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and every day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?**

Look on me and answer, O LORD my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death;

**my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.**

But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.

I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me.

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

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our sovereign heavenly Father, we humble ourselves now in your presence and confess that we have sinned against you and others.

All: We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. All the wrongs that we have done are not hidden from you.

Leader: Our sins and failures weigh heavy on our hearts, and we feel how our fellowship with you has suffered. Forgive us and restore us, we pray, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who loves us and gave himself for us.

All: Give us a growing desire to joyfully serve you and one another as we follow 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

Romans 3:21-24

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 14:1-14

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 455

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis myst'ry all! Th'Immortal dies:
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.

'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above
(So free, so infinite his grace!),
Humbled himself (so great his love!)
And bled for all his chosen race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,

And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me? Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 49. *Which is the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment is “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

Q. 50. *What is required in the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his Word.

Q. 51. *What is forbidden in the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment forbids the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his Word.

Q. 52. *What are the reasons attached to the second commandment?*

A. The reasons attached to the second commandment are: God’s sovereignty over us, his ownership in us, and the zeal he has for his own worship.

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*

Exodus 14:15-31

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 13])

Hymn 641

How Long Wilt Thou Forget Me

How long wilt thou forget me,
O Lord, thou God of grace?
How long shall fears beset me,
While darkness hides thy face?
How long shall griefs distress me
And turn my day to night?
How long shall foes oppress me
And triumph in their might?

O Lord my God, behold me,
And hear my earnest cries;
Lest sleep of death enfold me,
Enlighten thou mine eyes;
Lest now my foe insulting
Should boast of his success,
And enemies exulting
Rejoice in my distress.

But I with expectation
Have on thy grace relied;
My heart in thy salvation
Shall still with joy confide;
And I with voice of singing
Will praise the Lord above,
Who, richest bounties bringing,
Has dealt with me in love. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Soli Deo Gloria”
Exodus 14

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 55

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that we may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth bear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro’ Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood! To ev’ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth bear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro’ Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth bear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro’ Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he has done! 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.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, January 6

Scripture: Genesis 13:5 - 15:21; Matthew 5:27-48; Psalm 6:1-10; Proverbs 1:29-33

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 14

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

Tuesday, January 7

Scripture: Genesis 16:1 - 18:15; Matthew 6:1-24; Psalm 7:1-17; Proverbs 2:1-5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 57

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

Wednesday, January 8

Scripture: Genesis 18:16 - 19:38; Matthew 6:25 - 7:14; Psalm 8:1-9; Proverbs 2:6-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 58

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Timor-Leste and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, January 9

Scripture: Genesis 20:1 - 22:24; Matthew 7:15-29; Psalm 9:1-12; Proverbs 2:16-22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 59

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

Friday, January 10

Scripture: Genesis 23:1 - 24:51; Matthew 8:1-17; Psalm 9:13-20; Proverbs 3:1-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 60

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

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

Saturday, January 11

Scripture: Genesis 24:52 - 26:16; Matthew 8:18-34; Psalm 10:1-15; Proverbs 3:7-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 61

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

Sunday, January 12

Scripture: Genesis 26:17 - 27:46; Matthew 9:1-17; Psalm 10:16-18; Proverbs 3:9-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 62

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 in Belize

Dave Eby in Uganda

Christ Bible Institute in Japan

The Shepherd's Church in Riverside

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism teaches us the main purpose of our existence as creatures: we are to glorify God and enjoy him forever. What we learn at the very beginning of this catechism and throughout Scripture is that God is glorious, and he is therefore worthy of glory. Exodus 14 is especially clear on this point: God is worthy of all glory. Philip Ryken, in his commentary on Exodus, helps us see how God's actions in Exodus 14 led to his receiving glory and praise:

The crossing of the Red Sea brought glory to God by convincing the Israelites to believe in God, which may have been the greatest miracle of all. The Israelites must have had some faith already, because they were willing at least to follow God between two great walls of water. Indeed, Hebrews says, "By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land" (11:29a). But they made an even firmer faith commitment when it was all over. Exodus 14 ends on this triumphant note: "And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant" (v. 31).

God was fulfilling his grand purpose of saving a people for his glory. For that to happen, his people had to trust him and worship him. Notice the order here: God did not wait for his people to trust in him before he would save them. If he had waited for that to happen, they never would have been saved! Instead God took the initiative. First the people saw their salvation (just as Moses had promised, Exodus 14:13); then they feared and believed. This is the pattern and the purpose of salvation. First God delivers us from danger, saving us when we cannot save ourselves. Then we respond in faith, trusting God and worshiping him.

1. Read Exodus 14. Why did God maneuver his people along the route he chose? What was his purpose? How does Pharaoh's response reveal the pride and arrogance of fallen man?
2. How was God glorified for his power in Exodus 14? What other places in Scripture is God's power demonstrated by his ability to control the seas? What does this reveal about God as Creator?
3. How was God glorified for his judgment in Exodus 14? Why are we sometimes uncomfortable talking about God's justice and righteousness in his judgment? Why is understanding God's righteous judgment crucial for understanding what Christ accomplished on the cross for you?
4. How was God glorified for his grace in Exodus 14? How is his grace especially highlighted by the response of Israel as they saw the Egyptians pursuing them?
5. How does Israel's salvation through the Red Sea point to Christ?



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