



GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,
for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.
Psalm 61:2b-3

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading* Psalm 2 (p. 785 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

"Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
"I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me,
"You are my Son; today I have become your Father.

"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

"You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*
The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

Hymn of Preparation* (music printed on p. 12)

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last!
He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your moral law which is summarized in the Ten Commandments. Each commandment reveals your holiness and our sinfulness. The Fifth Commandment is: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

All: We confess that we have broken this commandment by not giving proper respect to those whom you have placed in authority over us. Help us to correct our errors and to trust in your sovereignty over every sphere of our lives, including your providence over those whom you have appointed to lead us. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to serve and please you in newness of life, through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord in whose Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading* Psalm 53

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month) Hymn 482

Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

"Come unto me, ye weary, and I will give you rest."
O blessed voice of Jesus which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending, of love which cannot cease.

"Come unto me, dear children, and I will give you light."
O loving voice of Jesus which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness, and we had lost our way;
But morning brings us gladness, and songs the break of day.

"Come unto me, ye fainting, and I will give you life."
O peaceful voice of Jesus which comes to end our strife!
The foe is stern and eager, the fight is fierce and long;
But thou hast made us mighty, and stronger than the strong.

"And whosoever cometh I will not cast him out."
O patient love of Jesus which drives away our doubt;
Which calls us, very sinners, unworthy though we be
Of love so free and boundless, to come, dear Lord, to thee! Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 42. *What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?*

A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Q. 43. *What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?*

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments is in these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

Q. 44. *What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?*

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us that because God is the Lord and our God and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

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* Ephesians 2:1-10

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month: Psalm 47) Hymn 73

Rejoice, All People, Homage Give

Rejoice, all people, homage give,
To God with voice of triumph sing;
He rules us in dread majesty,
The great, the universal King.

He puts the nations under us
And makes us all triumphant stand;
He gives us for our heritage
His promised rest, a goodly land.

God has ascended with a shout,
Jehovah with the trumpet's sound;
Sing praise to God our King, sing praise,
Yes, let his glorious praise abound.

Our God is King of all the earth,
With thoughtful heart his praise make known;
O'er all the nations God does reign,
Exalted on his holy throne.

To praise and serve our cov'nant God
The princes of the earth draw nigh;
All kingly pow'rs belong to him,
He is exalted, God Most High. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Pastor Ben Muresan

"Grace Alone"
Ephesians 2:1-10

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving* Hymn 460

Amazing Grace!

Amazing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response* (Sung to TRINITY)

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

"Grace Alone"
Ephesians 2:1-10

1. We were God's enemies.
   Romans 5:10

2. He saved us by grace.
   Titus 3:7

3. He sustains us by grace to persevere to the end.
   Galatians 3:3

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, October 19
Scripture: Jeremiah 33:1 - 34:22; 1 Timothy 4:1-16; Psalm 89:1-13; Proverbs 25:23-24
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 9
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, October 20
Scripture: Jeremiah 35:1 - 36:32; 1 Timothy 5:1-25; Psalm 89:14-37; Prov. 25:25-27
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 80
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, October 21
Scripture: Jeremiah 37:1 - 38:28; 1 Timothy 6:1-21; Psalm 89:38-52; Proverbs 25:28
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 81
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Ethiopia and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, October 22
Scripture: Jeremiah 39:1 - 41:18; 2 Timothy 1:1-18; Psalm 90:1 - 91:16; Prov. 26:1-2
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 82
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, October 23
Scripture: Jeremiah 42:1 - 44:23; 2 Timothy 2:1-21; Psalm 92:1 - 93:5; Proverbs 26:3-5
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 83
Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, October 24
Scripture: Jeremiah 44:24 - 47:7; 2 Timothy 2:22 - 3:17; Psalm 94:1-23; Prov. 26:6-8
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 84
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, October 25
Scripture: Jeremiah 48:1 - 49:22; 2 Timothy 4:1-22; Psalm 95:1 - 96:13; Prov. 26:9-12
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 85
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 the Dominican Republic
Dave Eby in Uganda
Christ Bible Institute in Japan
The Shepherd's Church in Riverside

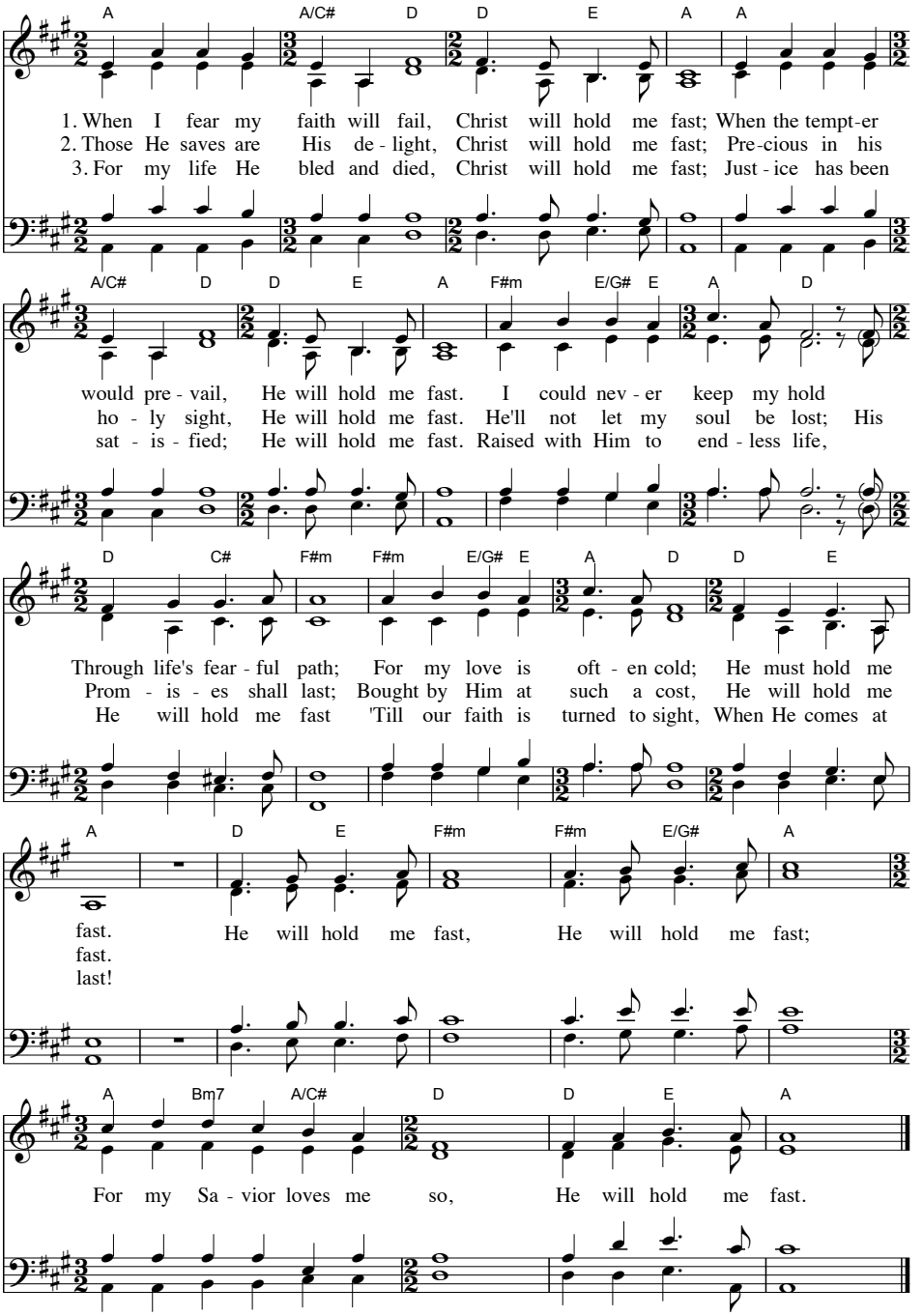
LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The emphasis of *sola gratia* (grace alone) is that salvation is a work of God from beginning to end. We are not saved by our works, whether done before or after our regeneration. If it were left up to us, we would never come to faith. And if it were left up to us, we would never remain in the faith. God chose us, saved us, and keeps us. Ian Hamilton, in his commentary on Ephesians, writes:

> Salvation, in its totality, is of grace. From inception to consummation, God's undeserved, forgiving kindness has secured our salvation. Grace is God acting in Christ to secure our salvation and sanctification. Grace is not a spiritual blessing divorced from the person of Christ, as if the Savior dispensed grace from a treasury of merits (that is a picture of Roman Catholicism). Jesus Christ Himself is the grace of God (2 Corinthians 8:9). If God's "so great a salvation" (Hebrews 2:3) were not by grace alone, no one would be saved. Sin has not merely disabled us; it has killed us (Ephesians 2:1, 5). We can no more contribute to our salvation than fly to the sun on wings of ice.
>
> It is little wonder that one of the Reformation watchwords was *sola gratia*, by grace alone. The Reformers had come to understand that the Roman Church had so profoundly corrupted the gospel that, while it spoke of salvation by grace, it actually taught that grace alone was not enough. This teaching was affirmed at the Council of Trent in the 1540s: "If any one saith that the sacraments of the New Law are not necessary unto salvation…and that without them, or without the desire thereof, men obtain from God, through faith alone, the grace of justification…let him be anathema." Grace puts God where He belongs, uniquely and alone on the throne of the cosmos, and puts believing sinners where they belong, at His feet in humble adoration.

1. For review, read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and reflect on *sola Scriptura*. Why did the Reformers emphasize that the Bible should be read by all Christians and rightly taught by all pastors? What words does Paul use in these verses to describe the uniqueness and power of Scripture, and what do they mean?
2. Consider the first point of the sermon. How does Paul describe our spiritual state apart from Christ in Ephesians 2:1-3 and Romans 5:10? What does this reveal about our depravity and God's sovereign grace?
3. Consider the second point of the sermon. What have we received by grace according to Ephesians 2:4-10? How does Paul show the wonder of our union with Christ in these verses?
4. Reflect on the third point of the sermon. What are some of the reasons we might be tempted as Christians to add works as a requirement for our salvation? How can you fight against this temptation and continue to focus on God's amazing grace?

He Will Hold Me Fast





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