



GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





WORSHIP SERVICE

October 25, 2026

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."
Romans 1:16-17

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading* Psalm 46 (p. 802 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and
the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD Almighty is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

The LORD Almighty is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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

Hymn of Preparation* Hymn 92

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: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions. Wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sins. For we know our transgressions, and our sins are always before us.

All: Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time we were conceived. Cleanse us, and we will be clean; wash us, and we will be whiter than snow. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and grant us steadfast obedience, for we ask in the name of our Savior, Jesus 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 Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading* Jeremiah 9:12-24

Congregational Response Hymn 348

Jesus, with Thy Church Abide

Jesus, with thy church abide, be her Savior, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried: we beseech thee, hear us.

Keep her life and doctrine pure; grant her patience to endure,
Trusting in thy promise sure: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she one in doctrine be, one in truth and charity,
Winning all to faith in thee: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost until she find,
And the brokenhearted bind: we beseech thee, hear us.

Save her love from growing cold, make her watchmen strong and bold,
Fence her round, thy peaceful fold: we beseech thee, hear us.

May her lamp of truth be bright, bid her bear aloft its light
Through the realms of heathen night: we beseech thee, hear us.

Arm her soldiers with the cross, brave to suffer toil or loss,
Counting earthly gain but dross: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she holy triumphs win, overthrow the hosts of sin,
Gather all the nations in: we beseech thee, hear us. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed (p. 846)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 735

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* Mark 15:21-32

Congregational Response 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.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Rev. Jason Pickard

"The Power of the Cross"
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain written on your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed
Crowning your bloodstained brow.
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life—
"Finished!" the victory cry.
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through your suff'ring I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through your selfless love!
This the pow'r of the cross: Son of God—slain for us.
What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.
And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his communion,
Make us one in spirit and in heart.
And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

"The Power of the Cross"
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

1. The Foolishness of the Cross (vv. 18-25)
   – the theology of glory and the theology of the cross

2. God's Foolish Choice (vv. 24, 26-28)

3. Christ – Our Foolish Boast (vv. 29-31)

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Boasting is all around us. We like to let people know when we do well. To live this way, is to live by a theology of glory. This is an approach to life that puts yourself at the center and it risks missing God making himself known through the cross of Christ. A theology of glory finds the cross foolish. Human wisdom will never lead us to the cross. Yet, a theology of the cross is one that sees the cross as God's power and wisdom made known in Christ—the power and wisdom of salvation. The cross is the place of true glory. We all seek glory, but many seek glory in the wrong ways. What is more, seeking glory leads to boasting. If life is centered on "us" we boast about our own accomplishments and works. If we live by a theology of the cross, Christ becomes our only boast. And ironically, we find the glory we were looking for at the cross and nowhere else.

1. Do you think that our culture likes to "boast" of its accomplishments? When do you find yourself boasting?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and reflect on the theology of glory and the theology of the cross. Is the "cat" and "dog" illustration helpful to consider? (Sorry cat lovers!)
3. How does our culture live by a theology of glory? How are we tempted to do the same?
4. How does the theology of the cross redirect our quest for glory?
5. How does the doctrine of election turn the values of the world (i.e. a theology of glory) upside down?
6. Why is the cross our only boast? Reflect on the rich ending of 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and consider how you will apply what you learned in the sermon in your life.



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