



GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!
Psalm 57:5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading* Psalm 139:1-14 (p. 836 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

** 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 40

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

God is our refuge and our strength, our ever-present aid,
And therefore though the earth remove, we will not be afraid;
Though hills amidst the sea be cast, though foaming waters roar,
Yea, though the mighty billows shake the mountains on the shore.

A river flows whose streams make glad the city of our God,
The holy place wherein the Lord Most High has his abode.
Since God is in the midst of her, unmoved her walls shall stand,
For God will be her early help, when trouble is at hand.

The nations raged, the kingdoms moved, but when his voice was heard,
The troubled earth was stilled to peace before his mighty word.
The Lord of Hosts is on our side, our safety to secure;
The God of Jacob is for us a refuge strong and sure.

O come, behold what wondrous works Jehovah's hand has wrought;
Come, see what desolation great he on the earth has brought.
To utmost ends of all the earth he causes war to cease;
The weapons of the strong destroyed, he makes abiding peace.

"Be still and know that I am God, o'er all exalted high;
The subject nations of the earth my name shall magnify."
The Lord of Hosts is on our side, our safety to secure;
The God of Jacob is for us a refuge strong and sure. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God, you caution us in your Word, saying: "Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass it by."

All: Father, we confess that we have not obeyed your Word. 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. Forgive us, we pray, and enable us by your Holy Spirit to love your commandments and to walk in your ways. 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 Acts 10:42-43

And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading* Genesis 15

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. 45. *What is the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment is: "You shall have no other gods before me."

Q. 46. *What is required in the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Q. 47. *What is forbidden in the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment forbids the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving to any other of that worship and glory due to him alone.

Q. 48. *What are we especially taught by the words, "before me," in the first commandment?*

A. These words, "before me," in the first commandment teach us that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

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* Romans 4:1-12

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

"Faith Alone"
Hebrews 12:1-2

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer; there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me; through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven; the future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated; Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus; all the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: yet not I, but through Christ in me. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response* (Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in One, O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

SERMON NOTES

"Faith Alone"
Hebrews 12:1-2

1. Saving faith is not:
   a feeling.
   a power.
   sincerity.
   mere belief in "a higher power."

2. Saving faith:
   is a gift. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Matthew 16:15-17)
   is focused on Christ alone. (Hebrews 12:1-2)
   rests on Christ alone. (Mark 9:23-24)

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, October 26
Scripture: Jeremiah 49:23 - 50:46; Titus 1:1-16; Psalm 97:1 - 98:9; Proverbs 26:13-16
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 10
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, October 27
Scripture: Jeremiah 51:1-53; Titus 2:1-15; Psalm 99:1-9; Proverbs 26:17
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 86
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, October 28
Scripture: Jeremiah 51:54 - 52:34; Titus 3:1-15; Psalm 100:1-5; Proverbs 26:18-19
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 87
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Faeroe Islands and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, October 29
Scripture: Lamentations 1:1 - 2:22; Philemon 1:1-25; Psalm 101:1-8; Proverbs 26:20
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 88
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, October 30
Scripture: Lamentations 3:1-66; Hebrews 1:1-14; Psalm 102:1-28; Proverbs 26:21-22
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 89
Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, October 31
Scripture: Lamentations 4:1 - 5:22; Hebrews 2:1-18; Psalm 103:1-22; Proverbs 26:23
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 90
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, November 1
Scripture: Ezekiel 1:1 - 3:15; Hebrews 3:1-19; Psalm 104:1-23; Proverbs 26:24-26
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 91
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

While our culture emphasizes the importance of faith and spirituality, these terms are often defined in a vague, man-centered way. The Bible teaches that saving faith does not come from within us but from outside of us. It is a gift from God that directs our attention and our trust to Christ and his saving work. Nate Pickowicz, in his book *Why We're Protestant*, helpfully explains the Christ-centered nature of saving faith:

> How does a person get right with God? A person must come to realize that he has sinned against a holy God, and that the wages of that sin is death (Romans 6:23). However, God has made a way, by his grace, to save the sinner, not based on anything righteous he has done, but by the righteousness possessed and accomplished by Jesus Christ. By faith, the sinner must believe that Jesus went to the cross and died in his place —the innocent for the guilty. By faith (and through repentance), the sinner must believe that the penalty for his life of sin was removed from him and placed on Christ. By faith, the sinner must believe that the perfect righteousness of Christ was credited to his account by God. This "great exchange" is made by God—a legal declaration, whereby he looks at Christ on the cross and declares, "Cursed!" and looks at the sinner and declares, "Justified!" This is what it means to be justified by faith apart from works.
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> Its importance cannot be overstated. It is at the heart of the gospel, which is the only way sinners can be justified before God. Martin Luther affirmed: "If the article of justification is lost, all Christian doctrine is lost at the same time."
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> For we maintain that a person is not justified before God based on his religious observance, or his acts of goodness, or his piety, or his self-denial, or his self-righteousness. The only way we can have a right standing before God is to be justified by his grace alone through faith alone.

1. For review, how would you explain the importance of *sola Scriptura* and *sola gratia* to a Christian that is not familiar with these doctrines? How would you explain their importance to an unbeliever?
2. Consider the first point of the sermon. Why is it helpful to consider what saving faith is not in order to better understand what it actually is?
3. Consider the second point of the sermon and read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Hebrews 12:1-2. Why is saving faith in Christ not considered a work, and how does the writer of Hebrews teach us to look upon Christ?
4. Think about the father's prayer in Mark 9:23-24. How does his prayer encourage you to know that faith's strength is in its object not its intensity?



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