



GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 4, 2026

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
1 Corinthians 11:26

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading* Psalm 47 (p. 803 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!

He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham,

for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

** 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 32

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! 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 Fourth Commandment is, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

All: We confess that we have broken this commandment by not spending each Lord's Day resting in Christ's finished work of salvation for us and instead have been distracted by our worldly commitments and recreations. Forgive us and guide our thoughts, words, and deeds to be in conformity to what is glorifying and pleasing to you, for we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness Revelation 1:5-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading* Esther 9:1-19

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. 37. *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?*

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves until the resurrection.

Q. 38. *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?*

A. At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

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* Esther 9:20 - 10:3

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

"Assured of a Better Kingdom"
Esther 9:1 - 10:3

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving* Hymn 299

Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious

Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious: see the Man of Sorrows now;
From the fight returned victorious, ev'ry knee to him shall bow.
Crown him! Crown him! Crowns become the Victor's brow.

Crown the Savior, angels, crown him; rich the trophies Jesus brings;
In the seat of pow'r enthrone him, while the vault of heaven rings.
Crown him! Crown him! Crown the Savior King of kings.

Sinners in derision crowned him, mocking thus the Savior's claim;
Saints and angels crowd around him, own his title, praise his name.
Crown him! Crown him! Spread abroad the Victor's fame!

Hark! those bursts of acclamation! Hark! those loud triumphant chords!
Jesus takes the highest station; O what joy the sight affords!
Crown him! Crown him! King of kings and Lord of lords. 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.

SERMON NOTES

"Assured of a Better Kingdom"
Esther 9:1 - 10:3

1. Fight the ***good*** fight…
   2 Timothy 4:7

2. Assured that Christ has secured your victory…
   Romans 8:38-39

3. And that he will establish his Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
   Revelation 21:1-4

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, October 5
Scripture: Jeremiah 4:19 - 6:15; Colossians 1:18 - 2:7; Psalm 77:1-20; Prov. 24:23-25
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 7
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, October 6
Scripture: Jeremiah 6:16 - 8:7; Colossians 2:8-23; Psalm 78:1-31; Proverbs 24:26
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 68
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, October 7
Scripture: Jeremiah 8:8 - 9:26; Colossians 3:1-17; Psalm 78:32-55; Proverbs 24:27
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 69
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Eritrea and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, October 8
Scripture: Jeremiah 10:1 - 11:23; Col. 3:18 - 4:18; Psalm 78:56-72; Prov. 24:28-29
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 70
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, October 9
Scripture: Jeremiah 12:1 - 14:10; 1 Thess. 1:1 - 2:8; Psalm 79:1-13; Prov. 24:30-34
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 71
Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, October 10
Scripture: Jeremiah 14:11 - 16:15; 1 Thess. 2:9 - 3:13; Psalm 80:1-19; Prov. 25:1-5 Catechism:
The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 72
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, October 11
Scripture: Jeremiah 16:16 - 18:23; 1 Thess. 4:1 - 5:3; Psalm 81:1-16; Proverbs 25:6-8
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 73
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

In our study of Esther, we learned about how God, by his sovereign providence, protected his people in keeping with his covenant promises. Even when it seemed hopeless, God was working behind the scenes in powerful ways to accomplish his purposes. The book of Esther concludes with God's people dwelling safe and secure, and still awaiting the coming of the Messiah. As we read the book of Esther, we can trace God's faithfulness in the Old Covenant and continue tracing it up to our time and into the future. We can see how none of God's promises failed to come to pass, and through this find assurance in the truth that God will never change. He was faithful in the past and will be faithful in the future.

1. Read Esther 9:1-19. How do these verses teach us about the need to be active in our fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil? What does it mean to fight the "good" fight according to 2 Timothy 4:7?
2. Read Esther 9:20 - 10:3. What is the meaning of the Feast of Purim? What means has God given us as Christians to regularly remind and assure us of Christ's victory? How can you use these means more diligently in your life to help you grow in your faith?
3. Reflect on the book of Esther. What are some themes and lessons that have stuck with you? How has our study of this book helped you better understand how the whole Bible, including the book of Esther, points us to Christ?



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