

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 21, 2021

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**Psalm 89:1**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

**Greeting and Blessing\***

**Responsive Reading\***

Psalm 66 (p. 807 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

**Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!**

Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

**“So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.**

“All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name.”

**Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf!**

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot—come, let us rejoice in him.

**He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against him.**

Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;

**he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.**

For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

**You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.**

You let men ride over our heads;

**we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.**

I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.

**I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats.**

Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

**I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.**

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.

**Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!**

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

***Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! In his temple God be praised;  
In the high and heavenly places be the sounding anthem raised.  
*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.*

Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah for his mighty acts of fame;  
Excellent his might and greatness; fitting praises then proclaim.  
*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.*

Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah with the trumpet's joyful sound;  
Praise with harp and praise with organ, let his glorious praise abound.  
*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.*

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! All that breathe, Jehovah praise;  
Let the voices God has given joyful anthems to him raise.  
*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.*

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Father, we come before you to acknowledge our sin, because if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**All:** We confess that though you have been faithful, we have been unfaithful. We have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by not doing the good works that bring you glory and honor.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray. Apart from Christ we could never stand in your presence. Yet in him you have called us to draw near, and so we boldly approach your throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**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**

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Leviticus 19:1-18

Congregational Response

Hymn 679

### *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word;  
Just to rest upon his promise; just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more.*

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood;  
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more.*

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;  
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace.

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more.*

I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more. Amen.*

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 19.** *What is the misery of that estate into which man fell?*

**A.** All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

**Q. 20.** *Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?*

**A.** God, having out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

**Q. 21.** *Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?*

**A.** The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man, in two distinct natures, and one Person forever.

## 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.

# THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading\*

1 John 4:7-21

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month)

Hymn 667

## *God Is My Strong Salvation*

God is my strong salvation;  
What foe have I to fear?  
In darkness and temptation  
My light, my help is near.

Though hosts encamp around me,  
Firm to the fight I stand;  
What terror can confound me,  
With God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance,  
My soul, with courage wait;  
His truth be your affiance,  
When faint and desolate.

His might your heart shall strengthen,  
His love your joy increase;  
Mercy your days shall lengthen;  
The Lord will give you peace. Amen.

Installation of a Ruling Elder

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Glory of God Is the Goal”  
John 13:31-35

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 355

### *We Are God’s People*

We are God’s people, the chosen of the Lord,  
Born of his Spirit, established by his Word;  
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,  
And strong in him we stand:  
O let us live transparently,  
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,  
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;  
Now let us learn how to return  
The gift of love once giv’n:  
O let us share each joy and care,  
And live with a zeal that pleases heav’n.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,  
Called to obey him, now risen from the dead;  
He wills us be a family,  
Diverse yet truly one:  
O let us give our gifts to God,  
And so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place,  
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace;  
We die alone, for on its own  
Each ember loses fire:  
Yet joined in one the flame burns on  
To give warmth and light, and to inspire. 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.







## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

As Jesus prepared for his humiliation and exaltation, he in turn prepared his disciples for his departure by giving them a new commandment to love one another just as he had loved them (John 13:34). He knew they would face intense persecution and suffering, but their love for one another would be a powerful testimony to the watching world. Alexander Maclaren explains the important impact that Christians' love for one another made in the ancient world and throughout history:

When these words were spoken [by Jesus to his disciples], the then-known civilized Western world was cleft by great, deep gulfs of separation, like the crevasses in a glacier. ... Language, religion, national animosities, differences of conditions, and saddest of all, differences of gender, split the world up into alien fragments.... The learned and the unlearned, the slave and his master, the barbarian and the Greek, the man and the woman, stood on opposite sides of the gulfs, flinging hostility across. A Jewish peasant wandered up and down for three years in His own little country, which was the very focus of narrowness and separation and hostility, as the Roman historian felt when he called the Jews the "haters of the human race"; He gathered a few disciples, and He was crucified by a contemptuous Roman governor, who thought that the life of one fanatical Jew was a small price to pay for popularity with his troublesome subjects, and in a generation after, the clefts were being bridged and all over the Empire a strange new sense of unity was being breathed, and "Barbarian, Scythian, bond and free," male and female, Jew and Greek, learned and ignorant, clasped hands and sat down at one table, and felt themselves "all one in Christ Jesus."

1. Read John 13:31-32. What does this passage reveal about our Triune God? How was God glorified in Jesus? How did God glorify Jesus?
2. What do Isaiah 48:9-11, John 13:31-32, and John 17:1-5 reveal about God's one plan of salvation? What was the purpose of it?
3. Read John 13:33-34. What was "new" about Jesus' commandment?
4. Read John 13:35. What does Jesus say will result from believers loving one another? Have you seen this truth demonstrated in your life?
5. Read 1 John 4:7-21. What is the connection between God's love for us and our love for one another according to this passage?
6. In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul exhorts the church in Corinth not to divide over the issue of spiritual gifts but to be united through Christian love because love is supreme. Read the chapter and consider some of the specific ways Paul says Christian love should be displayed in the church.

# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.  
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

## **Monday, February 22**

Scripture: Leviticus 13:1-59; Mark 6:1-29; Psalm 39:1-13; Proverbs 10:10

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 10

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

## **Tuesday, February 23**

Scripture: Leviticus 14:1-57; Mark 6:30-56; Psalm 40:1-10; Proverbs 10:11-12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 22

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

## **Wednesday, February 24**

Scripture: Leviticus 15:1 - 16:28; Mark 7:1-23; Psalm 40:11-17; Proverbs 10:13-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 23

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.  
The churches in Bangladesh and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, February 25**

Scripture: Leviticus 16:29 - 18:30; Mark 7:24 - 8:10; Psalm 41:1-13; Proverbs 10:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 24

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

## **Friday, February 26**

Scripture: Leviticus 19:1 - 20:21; Mark 8:11-38; Psalm 42:1-11; Proverbs 10:17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 25

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

## **Saturday, February 27**

Scripture: Leviticus 20:22 - 22:16; Mark 9:1-29; Psalm 43:1-5; Proverbs 10:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 26

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

## **Sunday, February 28**

Scripture: Leviticus 22:17 - 23:44; Mark 9:30-50; Psalm 44:1-8; Proverbs 10:19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 27

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.*

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