



WORSHIP SERVICE

February 23, 2025

I will thank you in the great congregation;
in the mighty throng I will praise you.

Psalms 35:18

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalms 93 (p. 818 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;

the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.

The world is firmly established;
it cannot be moved.

**Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.**

The seas have lifted up, O LORD, the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

**Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea—the LORD on high is mighty.**

Your statutes stand firm;

holiness adorns your house for endless days, O LORD.

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

The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

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: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Law which reveals your holiness and our sinfulness.

All: The First Commandment of your Law is, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

Leader: We confess that though you are the God who brought us out of slavery to Satan, sin, and death through Jesus Christ, we have sinned against you by trusting in our own strength and not giving you the glory and honor that you alone deserve. Forgive us and enable us to prioritize you in our lives by worshipping you and seeking to live for your glory and praise.

All: Thank you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 17:8-16

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

(music printed on p. 12)

Union with Thee

Grace of the Father before there was time,
Chose us in Christ by the mercy divine.
Love laid the plans for our rescue to be
Purchased by blood for our union with thee.

Humbled in flesh, O thou bright shining Son,
Lord of the universe bearing our sin,
Long-suff'ring Servant from manger to tree,
Thy substitution won union with thee.

Raised on the third day, Destroyer of death,
Sent forth thy Spirit with lifegiving breath.
Hearts are made new, dead eyes opened to see;
Life-yielding faith brings us union with thee.

Filled with thy Spirit, we're led by thy Word;
Cross before crown is our road and reward.
Dark be the path, yet in thy light we see
Dying is living in union with thee.

Loved by the Father and bought by the Son,
Called by the Spirit to service and song,
Strangers and exiles until we receive
Pleasures unfading in union with thee. 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*

Ephesians 6:10-20

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 119:33-40])

Hymn 149

Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way of Truth

Teach me, O Lord, your way of truth,
And from it I will not depart;
That I may steadfastly obey,
Give me an understanding heart.

In your commandments make me walk,
For in your law my joy shall be;
Give me a heart that loves your will,
From discontent and envy free.

Turn now my eyes from vanity,
And cause me in your ways to tread;
O let your servant prove your word
And thus to godly fear be led.

Turn away my reproach and fear;
Your righteous judgments I confess;
To know your precepts I desire;
Revive me in your righteousness. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Fight the Good Fight”
Exodus 17:8-16

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

(sung to “The Church’s One Foundation”)

I Have No Other Comfort

I have no other comfort which life and death endures
Than that I am my Savior’s, whose death my life secures.
To you with soul and body, O Jesus, I belong;
You are my only Master and my Redeemer strong.

Your blood is full atonement for all my sin and guilt;
The cross is all my glory; on you my faith is built.
And you, my great deliv’rer, are my preserver too;
You guide all of my footsteps, and lead me clearly through.

Whatever things betide me must serve to save my soul;
The Father watches o’er me to keep me safe and whole.
Yes, by the Holy Spirit I fully am assured
That mine is life eternal according to your Word.

And so you make me willing with all my heart and mind
To live for you, my Savior, so loving, true, and kind.
To you with soul and body, O Jesus, I belong;
You are my only Master and my Redeemer strong. 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

“Fight the Good Fight”
Exodus 17:8-16

1. We are in a spiritual battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil.
Deuteronomy 25:17-19
Ephesians 6:10-12; 1 Peter 5:8-9
2. We cannot persevere through our own strength.
We need to strive.
We need each other.
We need the means of grace.
We need the Lord.
3. We are assured victory because of Christ.
Colossians 2:15

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, February 24

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 21

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

Tuesday, 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 99

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

Wednesday, 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 100

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

Thursday, 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 101

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

Friday, February 28

Scripture: Leviticus 22:17 - 23:44; Mark 9:30 - 10:12; Psalm 44:1-8; Proverbs 10:19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 102

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, March 1

Scripture: Leviticus 24:1 - 25:46; Mark 10:13-31; Psalm 44:9-26; Proverbs 10:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 103

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

Sunday, March 2

Scripture: Leviticus 25:47 - 27:13; Mark 10:32-52; Psalm 45:1-17; Proverbs 10:22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 104

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 Belize

Dave Eby in Uganda

Christ Bible Institute in Japan

The Shepherd's Church in Riverside

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

After revealing that he provides for his people both food and water, the Lord now revealed that he also protects his people in this first battle that Israel faced. The people of Israel were former slaves and untrained for battle. The Amalekites were trained warriors who demonstrated tactical abilities (Deuteronomy 25:17-19). Humanly speaking, the Israelites did not stand a chance against this formidable enemy. We see, however, that Israel was not fighting alone in this battle. The Lord, their Banner, was fighting for them and ensuring their victory. We can apply this to how the Lord strengthens us in our spiritual battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil. While these enemies are formidable, we are ensured victory because of all that Christ has accomplished. Tim Chester, in his commentary on Exodus, writes:

It seems that the Israelites had learned much from the incident of the water from the rock because there is no trace of reluctance or complaint in their reaction to the Amalekite aggression. What happened on that occasion is a paradigm for the church's action on earth. In the valley the Israelites were active in resisting the adversary, but their success in the battle depended on divine empowerment mediated through the intercessory prayer of Moses. That is the model which is still of relevance. "I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me" (Col. 1:29). After describing the armor God provides for his servants in contending for the truth, Paul concludes, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints" (Eph. 6:18). Success in standing against the devil's schemes and the onslaughts of the adversary depends not just in putting on the full armor of God, but in wearing it with on-going prayer.

1. Read Exodus 17:8-16 and Deuteronomy 25:17-19. What was the Lord teaching his people through this test? How did Moses and the people of Israel reveal their trust in the Lord by their actions?
2. Review the second point of today's sermon and consider each of the subpoints. How do you apply each of these in your walk with the Lord? Which of these do you neglect to consider when you are struggling? How might applying all of them more diligently help you grow in your maturity in Christ?
3. How does Moses' intercession in prayer reveal the importance of prayer for the Christian? What are some ways you can think of to help you improve in your prayer life?
4. Read Colossians 2:15. How does Christ's victory over Satan through the cross assure us of final victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil?

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Union with Thee

1. Grace of the Fa - ther be - fore there was time, chose us in
 2. Hum - bled in flesh, O thou bright shin - ing Son, Lord of the
 3. Raised on the third day, De - stroy - er of death, sent forth thy
 4. Filled with thy Spir - it, we're led by thy Word; cross be - fore
 5. Loved by the Fa - ther and bought by the Son, called by the

Christ by the mer - cy div - ine. Love laid the plans for our
 u - ni - verse bear - ing our sin, long - suf - f'ring Ser - vant from
 • Spir - it with life - giv - ing breath. Hearts are made new, dead eyes
 crown is our road and re - ward. Dark be the path, yet in
 Spir - it to ser - vice and song, stran - gers and ex - iles un -

res - cue to be pur - chased by blood for our un - ion with thee.
 man - ger to tree, thy sub - sti - tu - tion won un - ion with thee.
 • o - pened to see; life - yield - ing faith brings us un - ion with thee.
 thy light we see dy - ing is liv - ing in un - ion with thee.
 til we re - ceive plea - sures un - fad - ing in un - ion with thee.



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