

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 14, 2021

I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Psalm 13:6

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 68:1-20 (p. 808 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him.

As smoke is blown away by the wind, may you blow them away;

as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God.

But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.

Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds—

his name is the LORD—rejoice before him.

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing;

but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

When you went out before your people, O God, when you marched through the wasteland,

the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai,

before God, the God of Israel.

You gave abundant showers, O God; you refreshed your weary inheritance.

Your people settled in it, and from your bounty, O God, you provided for the poor.

The Lord announced the word, and great was the company of those who proclaimed it:

“Kings and armies flee in haste; in the camps men divide the plunder.

“Even while you sleep among the campfires, the wings of my dove are sheathed with silver, its feathers with shining gold.”

When the Almighty scattered the kings in the land, it was like snow fallen on Zalmon.

The mountains of Bashan are majestic mountains; rugged are the mountains of Bashan.

Why gaze in envy, O rugged mountains, at the mountain where God chooses to reign, where the LORD himself will dwell forever?

The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands; the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary.

When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious—that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.

Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.

Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.

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

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in distress;
Praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless;
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes;
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, widely as his mercy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
But while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the High Eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space,
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep, each of us going our own way and seeking our own path.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and others. We depended on our own strength and stumbled. We leaned on our own understanding and made foolish decisions. We sought the things of this world and failed to seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness.

Leader: Have mercy on us, we pray, and grant us forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ. Cause us to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

All: All praise, honor, and glory be to you, O God, through 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

Psalm 103:8-12

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Proverbs 7

Congregational Response

Hymn 94

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“E’en down to old age all my people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.” Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 24. *How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?*

A. Christ executes the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Q. 25. *How does Christ execute the office of a priest?*

A. Christ executes the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Q. 26. *How does Christ execute the office of a king?*

A. Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

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.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month)

(also printed on pg. 10)

The LORD Said to My Lord

The LORD said to my Lord:
“Sit here at My right hand
Until I make Your enemies
A footstool for Your feet.”
The LORD from Zion sends
Your scepter in its strength,
“With mighty power show Your rule
Among Your enemies.”

Your people freely come
Throughout Your day of pow’r;
From morning’s dawn, in holy robes,
Your youth are like the dew.
The LORD has sworn an oath,
And will not change His mind:
“In th’order of Melchizedek,
You ever are a priest.”

The Lord at Your right hand
Will shatter kings in wrath.
Among the nations He will judge,
And fill them with their dead.
Yes, He will smite and crush
Chief men in many lands.
And from the wayside brook He’ll drink,
And therefore lift His head. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Clayton Willis

“Holiness and Honor”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 498

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict’ry wins.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o’er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
Storms about me, night o’ertakes me, he, my pilot, hears my cry.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find,
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end. 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.

110D

Psalm 110

The LORD Said to My Lord

*Having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, He sat down...
waiting from that time onward. —Hebrews 10:12-13*



1. ¹The LORD said to my Lord: "Sit here at My right hand
2. ³Your peo - ple free - ly come Through-out Your day of pow'r;
3. ⁵The Lord at Your right hand Will shat - ter kings in wrath.



Un - til I make Your en - e - mies A foot-stool for Your feet."
From morn-ing's dawn, in ho - ly robes, Your youth are like the dew.
⁶A - mong the na-tions He will judge, And fill them with their dead.



²The LORD from Zi - on sends Your scep - ter in its strength,
⁴The LORD has sworn an oath, And will not change His mind:
Yes, He will smite and crush Chief men in ma - ny lands.



"With might - y pow - er show Your rule A - mong Your en - e - mies."
"In th'or - der of Mel - chi - ze - dek, You ev - er are a priest."
⁷And from the way-side brook He'll drink, And there-fore lift His head.



LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In our passage this morning (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8) we are dealing with the important but sensitive subject of sexual sin. The culture of first-century Thessalonica was even more permissible sexually than ours today. The change in thinking and lifestyle the Apostle Paul, through the Lord Jesus, is requiring of believers (1 Thess. 4:3, abstain from sexual immorality) will be shockingly evident to everyone around them. Yet Paul says this change is required of believers because we are called 'in holiness' and we are to please God with our lives.

John Stott points out how Paul connects our knowing God with our desire to please him, and contrasts this with the immoral behavior that arises from not knowing God:

What is also impressive about this [passage] is that it is from first to last an example of 'theological ethics', ethics arising out of the Christian doctrine of God. If the heathen behave as they do because they do not know God (v. 5), Christians must behave in a completely different way because we do know God, because he is a holy God, because he is our God, and because we want to please him.

The world disregards God's call to purity because it does not know him. Our culture pushes sexual immorality by portraying behavior that displeases God as 'normal'. Because we know God and strive to please him, we need to look to God's Word for instruction on how we can use our bodies to bring him glory, and not behave immorally like those who do not know God.

1. Read Ephesians 4:17-24. How does Paul distinguish between the actions of those who know God and those who do not? How would you describe the pattern of life Paul describes in this passage?
2. Look up Romans 1:18-27. Is what Paul describes in this passage prevalent in our culture? Does Paul present this kind of behavior as being neutral in God's eyes? Why is this behavior considered idolatry?
3. Read what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:18. How are sexual sins different from other sins? What does Peter say about sexual sins (passions of the flesh) in 1 Peter 2:11?
4. What does it look like for a believer to abstain from sexual immorality? Look up Mathew 5:28. Does sexual immorality only include acts of sexual contact? How is this abstinence applied to what we watch and where we go?
5. How do married couples abstain from sexual immorality?

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, March 15

Scripture: Numbers 22:21 - 23:30; Luke 1:57-80; Psalm 58:1-11; Proverbs 11:12-13

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 13

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

Tuesday, March 16

Scripture: Numbers 24:1 – 25:18; Luke 2:1-35; Psalm 59:1-17; Proverbs 11:14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 40

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

Wednesday, March 17

Scripture: Numbers 26:1-51; Luke 2:36-52; Psalm 60:1-12; Proverbs 11:15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 41

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

Thursday, March 18

Scripture: Numbers 26:52 – 28:15; Luke 3:1-22; Psalm 61:1-8; Proverbs 11:16-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 42

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

Friday, March 19

Scripture: Numbers 28:16 – 29:40; Luke 3:23-38; Psalm 62:1-12; Proverbs 11:18-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 43

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, March 20

Scripture: Numbers 30:1 – 31:54; Luke 4:1-30; Psalm 63:1-11; Proverbs 11:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 44

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

Sunday, March 21

Scripture: Numbers 32:1 – 33:39; Luke 4:31 – 5:11; Psalm 64:1-10; Proverbs 11:22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 45

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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