



**GRACE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

**John 6:33**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

### Greeting and Blessing\*

### Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 130 (p. 833 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;  
O Lord, hear my voice.

**Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,  
O Lord, who could stand?

**But with you there is forgiveness;  
therefore you are feared.**

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.

**My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait  
for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD  
is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

**He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

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

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

***How Great Thou Art***

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy pow'r thro'out the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!*

When thro' the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art! Amen.*

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Gracious God, we believe that your Law is holy, and your commandments are righteous and good. Your Law reveals our sin and how desperately we need your saving grace. The Third Commandment of your Law is, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

**All:** We confess that we have broken this commandment by not treating your name with the honor and reverence that you deserve. We have been distracted in worship and in our prayers and Bible reading. We are ashamed and sorry for how we have sinned against you. Forgive us and guide our thoughts, words, and deeds to be in conformity to what is glorifying and pleasing to you. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to honor and serve you in newness of life, through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

**Private Confession of Our Sins**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Psalm 121

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 103

### *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

Holy God, we praise your name;  
Lord of all, we bow before you;  
All on earth your scepter claim,  
All in heav'n above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,  
Everlasting is your reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn  
Angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and seraphim  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:  
"Holy, holy, holy Lord."

Lo! the apostolic train  
Join your sacred name to hallow;  
Prophets swell the glad refrain,  
And the white-robed martyrs follow;  
And from morn to set of sun,  
Through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, Three we name you;  
While in essence only One,  
Undivided God we claim you,  
And adoring bend the knee,  
While we sing this mystery. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 88.** *What are the outward means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?*

**A.** The outward and ordinary means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all of which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

**Q. 89.** *How is the Word made effectual to salvation?*

**A.** The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith to salvation.

**Q. 90.** *How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?*

**A.** That the Word may become effectual to salvation we must attend to it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love; lay it up in our hearts; and practice it in our lives.

## 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.

❖ *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\*

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month: Psalm 22:23-26, 31)

Hymn 9

### *All You That Fear Jehovah's Name*

All you that fear Jehovah's name,  
His glory tell, his praise proclaim;  
You children of his chosen race,  
Stand in awe before his face,  
Stand in awe before his face.

The suff'ring One he has not spurned,  
Who unto him for help has turned;  
From him he has not hid his face,  
But answered his request in grace,  
But answered his request in grace.

O Lord, your goodness makes me raise  
Amid your people songs of praise;  
Before all them that fear you, now  
I worship you and pay my vow,  
I worship you and pay my vow.

For all the meek you will provide;  
They shall be fed and satisfied;  
All they that seek the Lord shall live  
And never-ending praises give,  
And never-ending praises give.

The Lord's unfailing righteousness  
All generations shall confess;  
From age to age shall men be taught  
What wondrous works the Lord has wrought,  
What wondrous works the Lord has wrought. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Faith and Suffering”  
Colossians 1:24-25

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

## **GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 676

### *Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment*

Day by day and with each passing moment,  
Strength I find to meet my trials here;  
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,  
I've no cause for worry or for fear.  
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure  
Gives unto each day what he deems best—  
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,  
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day the Lord himself is near me  
With a special mercy for each hour;  
All my cares he fain would bear, and cheer me,  
He whose name is Counselor and Pow'r.  
The protection of his child and treasure  
Is a charge that on himself he laid;  
“As your days, your strength shall be in measure,”  
This the pledge to me he made.

Help me then in every tribulation  
So to trust your promises, O Lord,  
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation  
Offered me within your holy Word.  
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,  
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,  
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,  
Till I reach the promised land. 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.





# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, March 16**

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 11

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

## **Tuesday, 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 1

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

## **Wednesday, 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 2

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Cameroon and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, 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 3

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

## **Friday, 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 4

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

## **Saturday, 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 5

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

## **Sunday, March 22**

Scripture: Numbers 33:40 – 35:34; Luke 5:12-28; Psalm 65:1-13; Proverbs 11:23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 6

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

Paul wrote the letter to the Christians in Colossae while he was imprisoned in Rome for preaching the gospel. We might expect a person going through such suffering to vent their anger and frustration, but instead Paul writes, "I rejoice in my sufferings" (Colossians 1:24). Why was he able to rejoice? Paul rejoiced because he recognized God's purposes in what he was experiencing. Paul wrote that his sufferings were for the sake of the Colossians, meaning that God was using Paul to spread the gospel to the Gentiles so that they would hear and believe. Alistair Wilson, in his commentary on Colossians, writes:

It is never easy or pleasant to suffer, but it is necessary to put suffering into proper perspective. While Paul's calling as a minister, or servant, is not typical of all Christians, his approach to suffering is instructive. He regards his suffering as a means of identifying with his Savior and also with other Christians who face suffering. In an age when many Christians in many parts of the world face extreme suffering on account of their faith in Jesus Christ, we must consider how Paul sets his own suffering (and that of others) in the context of Christ's suffering for his people and the hope of the gospel (Rom. 8:18).

Paul is also willing to toil and struggle (Col. 1:29) for the goal of presenting believers mature in Christ (v. 28). He shows a selfless attitude, seeking the good of others before his own comfort. What is more, Paul recognizes that if he is able to show determination in the face of afflictions, it is because God is at work in his life (1 Cor. 15:10; Phil. 2:13; 4:13).

The more that Paul reflects on the glory of the gospel, the more his sufferings seem of little consequence. When we face suffering, a similar deliberate choice to focus on the glory of Christ and of the gospel may prove decisive in responding positively to trying circumstances.

1. For review, read Colossians 1:21-23. What do these verses teach about total depravity? What do they teach about assurance of salvation through faith in Christ?
2. Read Colossians 1:24-25 carefully and consider how these verses were explained in the sermon. How can these verses be misunderstood? How do these verses reveal the heresy of the prosperity gospel?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. Why shouldn't you be surprised by suffering as a Christian? Have you ever faced rejection or opposition because of your faith in Christ? How did you get through it?
4. What purpose did Paul see in his suffering? How does Paul's perspective help you see the wisdom behind God's providence?
5. Read Romans 8:28-30. What do these verses teach you about why you should trust the Lord in the midst of your suffering?



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