



WORSHIP SERVICE

March 2, 2025

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Psalms 36:7

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalms 115 (p. 827 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory,

because of your love and faithfulness.

Why do the nations say, “Where is their God?”

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men.

They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see;

they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell;

they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk;

nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

Those who make them will be like them,

and so will all who trust in them.

O house of Israel, trust in the LORD—he is their help and shield.

O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD—he is their help and shield.

You who fear him, trust in the LORD—he is their help and shield.

The LORD remembers us and will bless us:

He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron,

he will bless those who fear the LORD—small and great alike.

May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children.

May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to man.

It is not the dead who praise the Lord, those who go down to silence;

it is we who extol the LORD, both now and forevermore.

Praise the LORD.

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

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

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we come to you burdened by guilt and shame as we remember how often we sinned against you and others.

All: Forgive our sins, we pray, and help us to put off greed, pride, anger, unbelief, covetousness, impurity, and all the sinful, earthly thoughts and desires that still have influence in our lives.

Leader: Through the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to put on our new nature, clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other as we have been forgiven by you.

All: Above all, empower us to put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony, as we together await the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 31:33-34

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 18:1-12

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 473

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

“Jesus sinners doth receive”
Word of surest consolation;
Word all sorrow to relieve,
Word of pardon, peace, salvation!
Naught like this can comfort give:
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

On God’s grace we have no claim,
Yet to us his pledge is given;
He hath sworn by his own name,
Open are the gates of heaven.
Take to heart this word and live:
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

When a helpless lamb doth stray,
After it, the Shepherd, pressing
Thro’ each dark and dang’rous way,
Brings it back, his own possessing.
Jesus seeks thee, O believe:
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

Now my conscience is at peace,
From the Law I stand acquitted;
Christ hath purchased my release
And my every sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve—
“Jesus sinners doth receive.” Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 73. *Which is the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment is, “You shall not steal.”

Q. 74. *What is required in the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment requires that we utilize only lawful means in obtaining and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

Q. 75. *What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment forbids whatever does, or may, unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor’s, wealth or outward estate.

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*

Exodus 18:13-27

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 115:1-3, 9-14, 18])

Hymn 67

Not Unto Us, O Lord of Heaven

Not unto us, O Lord of heav'n,
But unto you be glory giv'n;
In love and truth you do fulfill
The counsels of your sovereign will;
Though nations fail your pow'r to own,
Yet you do reign, and you alone.

Let Israel trust in God alone,
The Lord whose grace and pow'r are known;
To him your full allegiance yield,
And he will be your help and shield.
All those who fear him God will bless;
His saints have proved his faithfulness.

All you that fear him and adore,
The Lord increase you more and more;
Both great and small who him confess,
You and your children he will bless.
Yes, we will ever bless his name;
Praise you the Lord, his praise proclaim. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Power of the Gospel”
Exodus 18

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 439

Christ Shall Have Dominion

Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth’s remotest regions shall his empire be;
They that wilds inhabit shall their worship bring,
Kings shall render tribute, nations serve our King.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth’s remotest regions shall his empire be.*

When the needy seek him, he will mercy show;
Yea, the weak and helpless shall his pity know;
He will surely save them from oppression’s might,
For their lives are precious in his holy sight.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth’s remotest regions shall his empire be.*

Ever and forever shall his name endure,
Long as suns continue it shall stand secure;
And in him forever all men shall be blest,
And all nations hail him King of kings confessed.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth’s remotest regions shall his empire be.*

Unto God Almighty joyful Zion sings;
He alone is glorious, doing wondrous things.
Evermore, ye people, bless his glorious name,
His eternal glory through the earth proclaim.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth’s remotest regions shall his empire be. 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

“The Power of the Gospel”

Exodus 18

1. The power of the Gospel to save: A Gentile receives the grace of God! (vv. 1-11)
 Genesis 12:3
 Exodus 9:16
 Galatians 3:28-29
2. The power of the Gospel to unite: A Gentile is included in the people of God! (v. 12)
 Luke 15:1-2
 Galatians 2:11-14
 Revelation 5:9-10
3. The power of the Gospel to give wisdom: A Gentile teaches the wisdom of God! (vv. 13-27)
 Luke 12:19-20
 1 Corinthians 2:16

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, March 3

Scripture: Leviticus 27:14 - Numbers 1:54; Mark 11:1-26; Psalm 46:1-11; Prov. 10:23

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 22

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

Tuesday, March 4

Scripture: Numbers 2:1 - 3:51; Mark 11:27 - 12:17; Psalm 47:1-9; Proverbs 10:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 105

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

Wednesday, March 5

Scripture: Numbers 4:1 - 5:31; Mark 12:18-37; Psalm 48:1-14; Proverbs 10:26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 106

Pray for: Our covenant children, and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Turks and Caicos and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, March 6

Scripture: Numbers 6:1 - 7:89; Mark 12:38 - 13:13; Psalm 49:1-20; Proverbs 10:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 107

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

Friday, March 7

Scripture: Numbers 8:1 - 9:23; Mark 13:14-37; Psalm 50:1-23; Proverbs 10:29-30

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 1

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

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

Saturday, March 8

Scripture: Numbers 10:1 - 11:23; Mark 14:1-21; Psalm 51:1-19; Proverbs 10:31-32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 2

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

Sunday, March 9

Scripture: Numbers 11:24 - 13:33; Mark 14:22-52; Psalm 52:1-9; Proverbs 11:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 3

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

God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 was that the blessing of Abraham would be for all the nations. This was fulfilled through the salvation that Christ, the son of Abraham, secured for people of every tribe, tongue, and nation. As we sing in the hymn "Arise, My Soul, Arise," Christ's blood "atoned for every race, and sprinkles now the throne of grace."

Jethro's conversion in Exodus 18 revealed how God's promise to Abraham was being fulfilled. Jethro, who was a Gentile, heard about God's power and grace, and Jethro believed in him. Jethro praised the one true God of Israel and even demonstrated how God's wisdom characterizes every believer. We see here the power of the Gospel as it is made effectual by the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the elect from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

1. Read Exodus 18:1-11. How does Moses attest to the power and grace of God in saving his people? What elements of the Gospel are included in Moses' testimony? What do you learn in this passage about evangelism that you can apply to your interactions with unbelievers?
2. Read Exodus 18:12. How does this meal reveal the unity the Gospel creates? Read Galatians 2:11-14. Why did Paul rebuke Peter so sternly? What was Peter doing by his actions that compromised the truth of the Gospel the Apostle preached?
3. Read Exodus 18:13-27. How do these verses reveal the need for the Law that will soon be given at Mount Sinai? How does Jethro's advice get applied in Presbyterian churches like ours?
4. How did Jethro's wise advice testify to how wisdom characterizes every believer? In what ways do you seek to apply the wisdom you gain through salvation and from Scripture to your daily life?

Not unto Us, O Lord of Heaven

Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. Ps. 115:1

1. Not un - to us, O Lord of heav'n, but un - to
 2. Let Is - rael trust in God a - lone, the Lord whose
 3. All you that fear him and a - dore, the Lord in -

you be glo - ry giv'n; in love and truth you do ful -
 grace and pow'r are known; to him your full al - le - giance
 crease you more and more; both great and small who him con -

fil the coun - sels of your sov - ereign will; though na - tions
 yield, and he will be your help and shield. All those who
 fess, you and your chil - dren he will bless. Yes, we will

fail your pow'r to own, yet you do reign, and you a - lone.
 fear him God will bless; his saints have proved his faith - ful - ness.
 ev - er bless his name; praise you the Lord, his praise pro - claim.



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