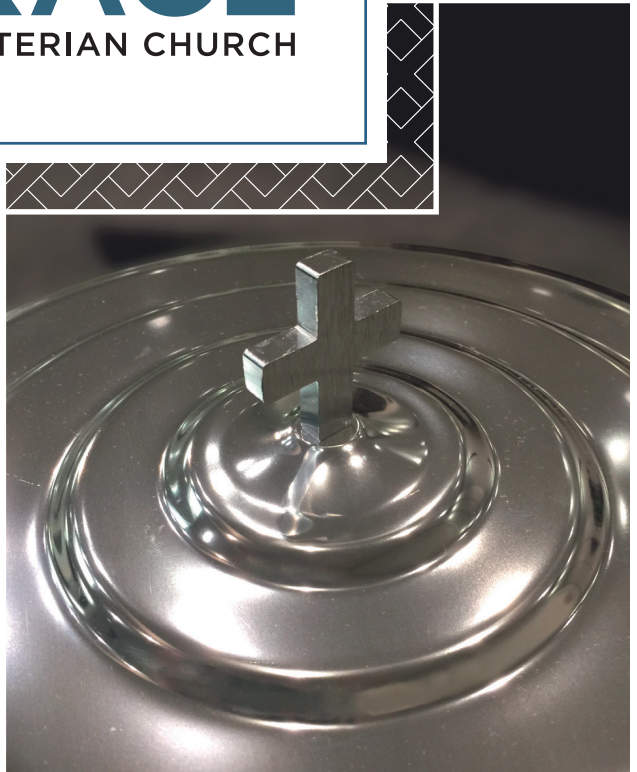


 **GRACE**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

March 23, 2025

I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

Psalms 40:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalms 98 (p. 820 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made his salvation known,

and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,

with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

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

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

God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory

God, all nature sings thy glory, and thy works proclaim thy might;
Ordered vastness in the heavens, ordered course of day and night;
Beauty in the changing seasons, beauty in the storming sea;
All the changing moods of nature praise the changeless Trinity.

Clearer still we see thy hand in man whom thou hast made for thee;
Ruler of creation's glory, image of thy majesty.
Music, art, the fruitful garden, all the labor of his days,
Are the calling of his Maker to the harvest feast of praise.

But our sins have spoiled thine image; nature, conscience only serve
As unceasing, grim reminders of the wrath which we deserve.
Yet thy grace and saving mercy in thy Word of truth revealed
Claim the praise of all who know thee, in the blood of Jesus sealed.

God of glory, power, mercy, all creation praises thee;
We, thy creatures, would adore thee now and through eternity.
Saved to magnify thy goodness, grant us strength to do thy will;
With our acts as with our voices thy commandments to fulfill. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we acknowledge along with the psalmist that “the sum of your Word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”

All: The Second Commandment of your Law is: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

Leader: We confess that we have broken this commandment by making idols of wealth, comfort, and pleasure. We have neglected to worship you in sincerity and to prioritize your glory.

All: Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to serve and please 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**

Isaiah 44:21-22

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 19:1-9a

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. 82. *Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?*

A. No mere man, since the fall, is able, in this life, to keep perfectly the commandments of God, but does break them daily in thought, word, and deed.

Q. 83. *Are all transgressions of the law equally wicked?*

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of aggravating circumstances, are more wicked in the sight of God than others.

Q. 84. *What does every sin deserve?*

A. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come.

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*

Exodus 19:9b-25

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

“Christ Has Hushed the Law’s Loud Thunder”
Exodus 19

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 172

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior’s name!
He has hushed the law’s loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Sinai’s flame;
He has washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
Called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood, he presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation threaten hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqueror’s crown:
He who washed us with his blood soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy’s store;
When through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
“You have washed us with your blood; you are worthy, Lamb of God!” 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.

SERMON NOTES

“Christ Has Hushed the Law’s Loud Thunder”

Exodus 19

1. The Mosaic Covenant was an administration of the Covenant of Grace. (vv. 1-4)
2. It set Israel apart as God's nation. (vv. 5-7)
1 Peter 2:9-12
3. It reveals the need for regeneration by the Holy Spirit. (v. 8)
Exodus 24:3
Jeremiah 31:33
2 Corinthians 5:17
4. It reveals God's holiness and our sinfulness. (vv. 9-25)
Galatians 3:19
5. It reveals our need for Christ, the only perfect Mediator. (vv. 3-25)
Hebrews 12:18-24

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, March 24

Scripture: Deuteronomy 2:1 – 3:29; Luke 6:12-38; Psalm 67:1-7; Proverbs 11:27

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 25

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

Tuesday, March 25

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-49; Luke 6:39 – 7:10; Psalm 68:1-18; Proverbs 11:28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 16

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

Wednesday, March 26

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1 – 6:25; Luke 7:11-35; Psalm 68:19-35; Proverbs 11:29-31

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 17

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the United Kingdom and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, March 27

Scripture: Deuteronomy 7:1 - 8:20; Luke 7:36 - 8:3; Psalm 69:1-18; Proverbs 12:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 18

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

Friday, March 28

Scripture: Deuteronomy 9:1 - 10:22; Luke 8:4-21; Psalm 69:19-36; Proverbs 12:2-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 19

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

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

Saturday, March 29

Scripture: Deuteronomy 11:1 - 12:32; Luke 8:22-39; Psalm 70:1-5; Proverbs 12:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 20

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

Sunday, March 30

Scripture: Deuteronomy 13:1 - 15:23; Luke 8:40 - 9:6; Psalm 71:1-24; Proverbs 12:5-7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 21

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 Adam and Eve sinned, God revealed that he would send a Savior to redeem his people from their sins. As history progressed, God revealed more details about the Savior through various covenants which were all part of God's one gracious promise to save his people. The laws detailed in the Mosaic Covenant revealed God's holiness, and they revealed the perfect obedience the Savior would render in order to accomplish salvation for his people. Ryan McGraw in his book, *What Is Covenant Theology? Tracing God's Promises through the Son, the Seed, and the Sacraments*, writes:

The Mosaic Covenant illustrates how Christ would fulfill the covenant of works, according to the terms of the covenant of redemption. Christ obeyed the Covenant of Works for his people, keeping God's commandments and living by them (Leviticus 18:5; Romans 5:12–21). He also bore the curse of the broken covenant, becoming a curse for us on the cross (Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13). He did this as a better Prophet, Priest, and King than Moses, who could not ultimately save anyone because he could neither die for their sins nor change their hearts. The sacraments of the Mosaic covenant were defective by design, with an expiration date, teaching people to look for something better and more permanent in Christ. Bloody sacrifices were repeated daily and yearly, priests had to cleanse themselves and eventually they died, and the ark was lost in exile, keeping believers' eyes on the horizon to look for the Seed of the woman who would crush the serpent's head. God administered the Covenant of Grace under Moses very differently from how he does now, yet this covenant was the Covenant of Grace and not the Covenant of Works. Even the built-in defects of the Mosaic Covenant are God's blessings to us because they lead us to Christ without letting us be satisfied with Moses.

1. Read Exodus 19:1-4. How do these verses reveal that this covenant was an administration of the Covenant of Grace? Why is this important?
2. How did this covenant with its laws set Israel apart as God's nation? According to 1 Peter 2:9-12, how does the Lord continue to set us apart from the world as Christians?
3. What is the promise of the New Covenant according to Jeremiah 31:33? How does this encourage you in your ongoing sanctification?
4. Read Hebrews 12:18-24. How does the writer contrast Mount Sinai and Mount Zion? Why is Christ a better mediator than Moses?
5. How does what you learned in Exodus 19 help you better understand the important role of God's law in your 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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