



WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 19, 2026

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 63:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 27 (p. 793 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me,
they will stumble and fall.

**Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me,
even then will I be confident.**

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty
of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.**

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me,
breathing out violence.

I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

* *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 thank you for your moral law which is summarized in the Ten Commandments. Each commandment reveals your holiness and our sinfulness. The Fifth Commandment is: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

All: We confess that we have broken this commandment by not giving proper respect to those whom you have placed in authority over us. Help us to correct our errors and to trust in your sovereignty over every sphere of our lives, including your providence over those whom you have appointed to lead us. 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

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*

Nehemiah 4:15-23

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 691

It Is Well with My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”
It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so”—it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 96. *What is the Lord's Supper?*

A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, in which by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's direction, his death is shown forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

Q. 97. *What is required to be worthy of receiving the Lord's Supper?*

A. It is required of those who would receive the Lord's Supper worthily that they examine themselves, as to their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, as to their faith to feed on him, and as to their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment on themselves.

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*

Ephesians 2:11-22

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month: Psalm 145:1-8)

(printed on p. 12)

I Will Extol You, O My God

I will extol you, O my God,
And praise you, O my King;
Yes, ev'ry day and evermore
Your praises I will sing.
Great is the Lord, our mighty God,
And greatly to be praised;
His greatness is unsearchable,
Above all glory raised.

Each generation to the next
Shall testimony bear,
And to your praise, from age to age,
Your wondrous acts declare.
Upon your glorious majesty
And honor I will dwell,
And all your grand and glorious works
And all your greatness tell.

Your mighty acts and awesome deeds
We shall with awe confess;
Of your great goodness they shall sing,
And perfect righteousness.
Most gracious and compassionate
Is God, who reigns above;
His wrath is ever slow to rise,
Unbounded is his love. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“United in Christ”
Colossians 1:29 – 2:5

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 521

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand. 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, April 20

Scripture: Joshua 21:1 - 22:20; Luke 20:1-26; Psalm 89:1-13; Proverbs 13:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 16

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

Tuesday, April 21

Scripture: Joshua 22:21 - 23:16; Luke 20:27-47; Psalm 89:14-37; Proverbs 13:17-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 31

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

Wednesday, April 22

Scripture: Joshua 24:1-33; Luke 21:1-28; Psalm 89:38-52; Proverbs 13:20-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 32

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

Thursday, April 23

Scripture: Judges 1:1 - 2:9; Luke 21:29 - 22:13; Psalm 90:1 - 91:16; Proverbs 13:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 33

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

Friday, April 24

Scripture: Judges 2:10 - 3:31; Luke 22:14-34; Psalm 92:1 - 93:5; Proverbs 14:1-2

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 34

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

Saturday, April 25

Scripture: Judges 4:1 - 5:31; Luke 22:35-53; Psalm 94:1-23; Proverbs 14:3-4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 35

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

Sunday, April 26

Scripture: Judges 6:1-40; Luke 22:54 - 23:12; Psalm 95:1 - 96:13; Proverbs 14:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 36

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

One of Paul's exhortations to the Colossians was for them to grow in their knowledge of Christ so that they would not be led astray by false teaching. Paul knew that one of the most important ways to protect ourselves against Satan's lies is to know and believe the truth so that we might "reach all the riches of full assurance" (Colossians 2:2). Richard Phillips, in his commentary on Colossians, writes:

Notice the result of gospel faith when it advances to doctrinal knowledge. Long-serving Christians will tell you that there is no greater treasure this side of heaven than assurance in salvation. Without knowing the doctrine of justification through faith alone, or the atonement of our sins through Christ's blood, or the preserving grace by which Jesus said, "No one will snatch [you] out of my hand" (John 10:28), the Christian is exposed to grave dangers of false teaching and spiritual doubts. Paul thus urged the Ephesians that we must advance in biblical truth "so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes" (Ephesians 4:14)...Nicholas Byfield notes the benefits of what Paul calls "the riches of full assurance" (Colossians 2:2) that fewer Christians seek. Such assurance: "comforts the heart, it defends from dangers, much better than outward riches can.... It gains the godly person more true reputation than houses, or land, or money could do. It abounds more to spiritual mercy and well-doing.... Yea, it will make a man stand undaunted against the rage of tyrants, yea, of death itself."

1. For review, read Colossians 1:28. What does this verse say about the importance of true preaching? What does it say about the importance of preaching law and doctrine? How might you apply this to how you listen to the preaching of God's Word each Lord's Day?
2. Read Colossians 1:29 – 2:1. What were some of Paul's struggles for Christ? How does what Paul experienced in his life for the sake of the gospel help you understand what a "normal" Christian life looks like?
3. What was Paul's focus according to Colossians 2:2-4? How does Paul's emphasis on knowing and believing the truth help you know what to prioritize in your life? How will doing this protect you from false teaching?
4. Read Colossians 2:5. How did the Colossians' unity in Christ help protect them from false teaching? How can we at Grace maintain the same kind of unity?

I Will Extol You, O My God

145C

1. I will ex-tol you, O my God, and praise you, O my king;
 2. Each gen-er-a-tion to the next shall tes-ti-mo-ny bear,
 3. Your might-y acts and awe-some deeds we shall with awe con-fess;

yes, ev-'ry day and ev-er-more your prais-es I will sing.
 and to your praise, from age to age, your won-drous acts de-clare.
 of your great good-ness they shall sing, and per-fect righ-teous-ness.

Great is the Lord, our might-y God, and great-ly to be praised;
 Up-on your glo-rious ma-jes-ty and hon-or I will dwell,
 Most gra-cious and com-pas-sion-ate is God, who reigns a-bove;

his great-ness is un-search-a-ble, a-bove all glo-ry raised.
 and all your grand and glo-rious works and all your great-ness tell.
 his wrath is ev-er slow to rise, un-bound-ed is his love.



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