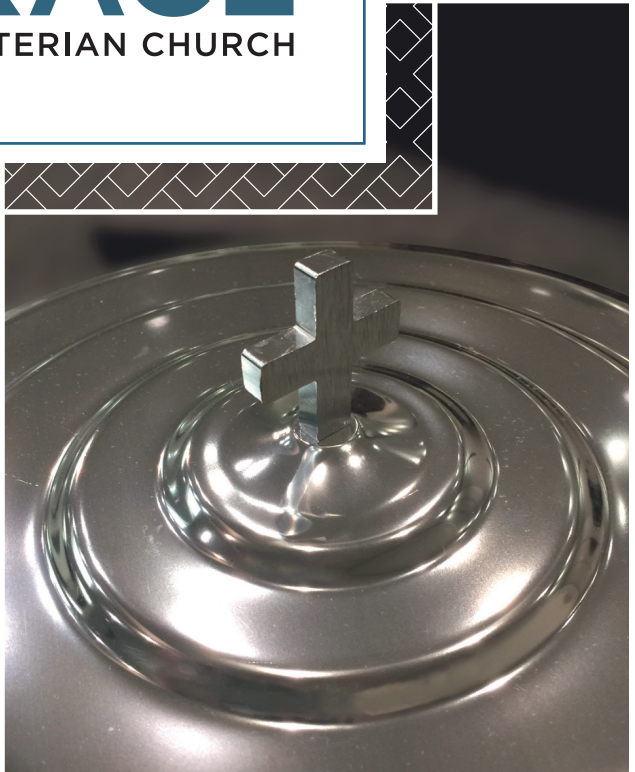


 **GRACE**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

April 6, 2025

You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

Psalms 40:5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalms 95 (p. 819 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the desert,

where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did.

For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people
whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways."

So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."

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

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

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice,

O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest man both warmth and light,

O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye, alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care,

O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

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

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 32:1-14

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 695

By Grace I Am an Heir of Heaven

By grace I am an heir of heaven:
Why doubt this, O my trembling heart?
If what the Scriptures promise clearly
Is true and firm in ev'ry part,
This also must be truth divine:
By grace a crown of life is mine.

By grace alone shall I inherit
That blissful home beyond the skies.
Works count for naught, the Lord incarnate
Has won for me the heav'nly prize.
Salvation by his death he wrought,
His grace alone my pardon bought.

By grace! These precious words remember
When sorely by your sins oppressed,
When Satan comes to vex your spirit,
When troubled conscience sighs for rest;
What reason cannot comprehend,
God does to you by grace extend.

By grace! Be this in death my comfort;
Despite my fears, 'tis well with me.
I know my sin in all its greatness,
But also him who sets me free.
My heart to naught but joy gives place
Since I am saved by grace, by grace. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 85. *What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?*

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance to life, with the diligent use of all the outward means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.

Q. 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?*

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, by which we receive and rest on him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 87. *What is repentance to life?*

A. Repentance to life is a saving grace, by which a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and understanding of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it to God, with full intention of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

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*

John 4:1-26

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 95:1-6])

Hymn 13

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

O come, let us sing to the Lord, to him our voices raise;
With joyful noise let us the Rock of our salvation praise.

Let us before his presence come with praise and thankful voice;
Let us sing psalms to him with grace, and make a joyful noise.

For God's a great God and great King; above all gods he is.
The depths of earth are in his hand; the heights of hills are his.

To him the spacious sea belongs, for he the same did make;
The dry land also from his hands its form at first did take.

O come, and let us worship him; let us bow down withal,
And on our knees before the Lord, our Maker, let us fall. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Second Commandment:
Worship Only the One True God in the Right Way”
Exodus 20:4-6

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart.
I know that while in heav’n he stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die.
My soul is purchased by his blood!
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God. 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 Second Commandment: Worship Only the One True God in the Right Way” Exodus 20:4-6

The Ten Commandments reveal:

God’s holiness.

Christ’s obedience.

Our need for Christ’s righteousness imputed to us.

How we are to live as redeemed and thankful followers of Christ.

1. The Second Commandment requires that we worship God in the way he has instructed us in the Bible.

Praying (Phil. 4:6), reading and preaching the Bible (1 Tim. 4:13), singing (Col. 3:16), observing the sacraments (Acts 2:42), giving offerings (1 Cor. 16:2), taking oaths and confessing our faith (Deut. 10:20).

2. The Second Commandment forbids the worshiping of God by images or any other way not commanded in the Bible.

Images dishonor God because they obscure his glory.

Images mislead us because they convey false ideas about God.

Our faith is Bible-based; we walk by faith, not by sight. (Deut. 4:12; Rom. 10:17)

God jealously desires us to worship him rightly as his covenant people. (Ex. 34:14-16)

3. The Second Commandment points us to Christ.

Christ worshiped truly. (John 2:17)

He is the image of God. (Col. 1:15)

He is remaking us into his image. (2 Cor. 3:18)

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, April 7

Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:1 - 32:27; Luke 12:8-34; Psalm 78:32-55; Prov. 12:21-23

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 27

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

Tuesday, April 8

Scripture: Deuteronomy 32:28-52; Luke 12:35-59; Psalm 78:56-64; Proverbs 12:24

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 28

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

Wednesday, April 9

Scripture: Deuteronomy 33:1-29; Luke 13:1-21; Psalm 78:65-72; Proverbs 12:25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 29

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the U.S. Virgin Islands and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, April 10

Scripture: Deut. 34:1 - Joshua 2:24; Luke 13:22 - 14:6; Psalm 79:1-13; Prov. 12:26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 30

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

Friday, April 11

Scripture: Joshua 3:1 - 4:24; Luke 14:7-35; Psalm 80:1-19; Proverbs 12:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 31

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

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

Saturday, April 12

Scripture: Joshua 5:1 - 7:15; Luke 15:1-32; Psalm 81:1-16; Proverbs 13:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 32

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

Sunday, April 13

Scripture: Joshua 7:16 - 9:2; Luke 16:1-18; Psalm 82:1-8; Proverbs 13:2-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 33

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

As we learned last Sunday, the First Commandment teaches that we need to worship only the one true God. The Second Commandment adds an additional requirement: that we need to worship only the one true God *in the right way*. What is the right way to worship him? How should that be determined? The answer is that God teaches us how to worship him in Scripture. He has clearly revealed what pleases him and brings him glory. J.V. Fesko helps us see how this commandment points us to Christ when he writes:

The Second Commandment, as with all of the Law, directs us to Christ. It warns us of sin, then drives us to Christ who, through his life, death, and resurrection has fulfilled the bond of love. It points us to Christ in reminding us that we must never make an image of God because God has revealed his image perfectly in our Lord Jesus Christ. It points us to Christ because, rather than making images of God, we see that we are being remade into God's image. God is recreating us, eliminating every vestige of sin. As 2 Corinthians 3:18 says: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." We do not make images of God, for he is making images of himself in us! In this way, Christ applies the rule of love to us by creating his holy image in us. When we read the Second Commandment, therefore, we should not see it merely as a prohibition, for it is also a reminder of Christ and our re-creation in his image. Let us therefore look to Christ, the only true image of God, and rejoice in our redemption. (*The Rule of Love: Broken, Fulfilled, and Applied*)

Go to www.opc.org/lc.html to access a copy of the Westminster Larger Catechism:

1. For review, read Larger Catechism Q/A 104 and 105. Why is it significant that God gave this commandment first?
2. Read Larger Catechism Q/A 108. In what ways are these elements present in our worship at Grace? If you have attended other churches, which elements were present in their worship services that you now recognize God has not instituted in his Word? What do you think are the reasons new elements are added to worship in some churches?
3. Read Larger Catechism Q/A 109. What are the reasons why making images of any Person in the Godhead is forbidden? Reflect on the points that were discussed in the sermon.
4. Of the actions forbidden in Larger Catechism Q/A 109, what about those that are done with "good intent"? How does our reading from John 4:1-26 reveal the importance of worshiping God only according to what he has revealed in his Word?



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