



# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!  
Amen and Amen.

**Psalm 41:13**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing\*

Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 111 (p. 826 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Praise the LORD.

**I will extol the LORD with all my heart  
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.**

Great are the works of the LORD;  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

**Glorious and majestic are his deeds,  
and his righteousness endures forever.**

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

**He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.**

He has shown his people the power of his works,  
giving them the lands of other nations.

**The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.**

They are steadfast for ever and ever,  
done in faithfulness and uprightness.

**He provided redemption for his people;  
he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**To him belongs eternal praise.**

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

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

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty***

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!  
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do, if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,  
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.  
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief, spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly fore'er we adore him. Amen.

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** O Lord our God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. In you there is no darkness at all. As we consider your glory and holiness, we are humbled and readily acknowledge our sinfulness.

**All:** We confess that we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Grant us repentant hearts to understand the sinfulness of our sins but also the assurance of forgiveness that comes by faith in the Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. 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\*

1 Samuel 17:31-54

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 469

### *How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place*

How sweet and awesome is the place with Christ within the doors,  
While everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,  
Each of us cries, with thankful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?"

"Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there's room,  
When thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?"

'Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us in;  
Else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God, constrain the earth to come;  
Send your victorious Word abroad, and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full, that all the chosen race  
May, with one voice and heart and soul, sing your redeeming grace. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 101.** *For what do we pray in the first petition?*

**A.** In the first petition, which is, “Hallowed be thy Name,” we pray that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all the means by which he makes himself known, and that he would arrange all things to his own glory.

**Q. 102.** *For what do we pray in the second petition?*

**A.** In the second petition, which is, “Thy kingdom come,” we pray that Satan’s kingdom may be destroyed, and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it, and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

**Q. 103.** *For what do we pray in the third petition?*

**A.** In the third petition, which is, “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

### Gloria Patri\*

Hymn 734

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\*

Matthew 18:21-35

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month: Psalm 51:1-15)

Hymn 486

### *God, Be Merciful to Me*

God, be merciful to me, on thy grace I rest my plea;  
Plenteous in compassion thou, blot out my transgressions now;  
Wash me, make me pure within, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress;  
I have sinned against thy grace and provoked thee to thy face;  
I confess thy judgment just, speechless, I thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; thou desirest truth within.  
Thou alone my Savior art, teach thy wisdom to my heart;  
Make me pure, thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust by thy wrath and judgment just,  
Let my contrite heart rejoice and in gladness hear thy voice;  
From my sins O hide thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;  
Cast me not away from thee, let thy Spirit dwell in me;  
Thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me and return, O God, to thee;  
Savior, all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing thy love;  
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord. Amen.

Profession of Faith

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“New Life in Christ”  
Colossians 2:11-15

## **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\***

(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.





# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, May 11**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 10:1 - 11:15; John 6:43-71; Psalm 107:1-43; Proverbs 15:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 19

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

## **Tuesday, May 12**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 12:1 - 13:23; John 7:1-30; Psalm 108:1-13; Proverbs 15:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 49

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

## **Wednesday, May 13**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 14:1-52; John 7:31-53; Psalm 109:1-31; Proverbs 15:5-7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 50

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in China and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, May 14**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1 - 16:23; John 8:1-20; Psalm 110:1-7; Proverbs 15:8-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 51

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

## **Friday, May 15**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1 - 18:4; John 8:21-30; Psalm 111:1-10; Proverbs 15:11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 52

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

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

## **Saturday, May 16**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:5 - 19:24; John 8:31-59; Psalm 112:1-10; Proverbs 15:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 53

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

## **Sunday, May 17**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 20:1 - 21:15; John 9:1-41; Psalm 113:1 - 114:8; Proverbs 15:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 54

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

In Colossians 2:11-15, the Apostle Paul explains what God did through Christ to save us from our sins. Paul's explanation includes the fact that Christ paid our debt of sin. It was a debt we could never pay, because it required perfect merit and obedience in order to be cancelled. In love and for his glory, Christ came and offered perfect obedience and also paid the penalty for our transgressions, thus "canceling the record of debt that stood against us" (Colossians 2:14). The way God planned and accomplished our salvation through Christ reveals his perfect plan and is in keeping with all of his attributes. Harrison Perkins in his book, *Reformed Covenant Theology*, writes:

Since God is just, and since breaking the moral law is an assault upon and rebellion against God's holy and just character, God cannot let sin go unpunished (Romans 3:25). The penalty for sin, after all, is not a matter of God's feelings, as if he is simply angry about being wronged. No, the "sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law" (1 Corinthians 15:56), meaning that death is the legal and just consequence for sin, "the curse of the law" that justice cannot arbitrarily set aside (Galatians 3:13). God must be consistent with his own righteous character, so it is necessary that the covenantal curse for sin be inflicted. In other words, even according to God's absolute power, he cannot simply will to forgive sins without upholding the standards of justice. That would be out of accord with his nature. So, the means of reconciliation that God appoints according to his ordained power must cohere with his righteous character. As Hermann Witsius put it, "If we could be saved any other way than by the sufferings of the Son of God, the love of God would not shine with such luster in that method."

1. For review, read Colossians 2:8-10 and note especially the phrase "not according to Christ" in verse 8 that describes the heresy the Colossians were facing. Did you encounter any wrong or deceitful teaching about Christ this week on social media, tv, or in your conversations with others? How did you counter it with your understanding of God's Word?
2. Read Colossians 2:11-12. What does this passage teach about union with Christ and new life in him? How can you live according to your new life in Christ more consistently?
3. Read Colossians 2:13-14. As you reflect on these verses and Harrison Perkins' quote above, how should the grace of God's forgiveness affect our relationships with others? What lessons does Jesus teach about forgiveness in Matthew 18:21-35?
4. Read Colossians 2:15. What is the significance today of Jesus' victory over Satan and his forces? How should knowing this affect your understanding of spiritual warfare and assurance of salvation?



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