



# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 17, 2026

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above,  
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

**Colossians 3:1**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

**Greeting and Blessing\***

**Responsive Reading\***

Psalm 24 (p. 791 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;

**for he founded it upon the seas and  
established it upon the waters.**

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?  
Who may stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.**

He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and vindication from God his Savior.

**Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is he, this King of glory?  
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.**

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

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

***A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing***

A hymn of glory let us sing; new songs thro'out the world shall ring: *Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
Christ, by a road before untrod, ascendeth to the throne of God.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand; *Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
And with his followers they see Jesus' resplendent majesty.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

To whom the angels, drawing nigh: "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" *Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
"This is the Savior," thus they say, "this is his noble triumph day."  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

"Again shall ye behold him so as ye today have seen him go, *Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
In glorious pomp ascending high, up to the portals of the sky."  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.*

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we love your moral law because it reveals your holiness and the way you want us to live for your glory as your people. The Eighth Commandment is, "You shall not steal."

**All:** We confess that we have broken this commandment by not being diligent in our work and by envying the prosperity of others. We have not been faithful stewards of your gifts of time, money, energy, health, intellect, and influence. Forgive us and make us people who are marked by gratitude for your blessings and generosity with the possessions you have entrusted to us. We ask all this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

**Private Confession of Our Sins**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Isaiah 1:12-20

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. 104.** *For what do we pray in the fourth petition?*

**A.** In the fourth petition, which is, “Give us this day our daily bread,” we pray that, of God’s free gift, we may receive a sufficient portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

**Q. 105.** *For what do we pray in the fifth petition?*

**A.** In the fifth petition, which is, “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,” we pray that God, for Christ’s sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are more encouraged to ask because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

## 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\*

Matthew 15:1-9

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.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Complete in Christ”  
Colossians 2:16-23

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

(sung to *The Church’s One Foundation*)

### ***More Than Conquerors***

All hail the mighty Conqueror, Christ Jesus, our great King!  
All hail the glorious Warrior, to whom our praise we bring.  
May he be given honors by all his ransomed host:  
We, too, are more than conquerors who make his name our boast.

Yet how can we inherit this title “conqueror” too?  
We have not earned the merit or fame that is his due.  
For we have only failed him by ev’ry sin and doubt;  
Indeed, we cruelly nailed him and cast the Conqueror out.

But rising up victorious he conquered death and sin,  
And reigns in heaven glorious, each conflict set to win.  
To those of his own choosing he shares the victory;  
Says, “Though you once were losing, come conquer now through me.”

“You cannot be defeated by trials in this life.  
The conquest is completed o’er Satan, sin, and strife.  
No pain, no tribulation, no danger, famine, sword,  
No—nothing in creation can conquer those in God.”

Now since our God is for us what have we then to fear?  
Though enemies deplore us, we face them all with cheer.  
For we will be triumphant: each foe will be trod down  
Beneath the Christ exultant, who shares the Conqueror’s crown. Amen.

**Benediction\***

**Congregational Benediction Response\***

Hymn 290

***Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise***

Hail the day that sees him rise *Alleluia!*  
To his throne above the skies; *Alleluia!*  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, *Alleluia!*  
Enters now the highest heav'n. *Alleluia!*

There for him high triumph waits; *Alleluia!*  
Lift your heads, eternal gates, *Alleluia!*  
He hath conquered death and sin, *Alleluia!*  
Take the King of glory in! *Alleluia!*

See, he lifts his hands above! *Alleluia!*  
See, he shows the prints of love! *Alleluia!*  
Hark! his gracious lips bestow *Alleluia!*  
Blessings on his church below. *Alleluia!*

Lord, beyond our mortal sight, *Alleluia!*  
Raise our hearts to reach thy height; *Alleluia!*  
There thy face unclouded see, *Alleluia!*  
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in thee! *Alleluia!* Amen.





# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, May 18**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 22:1 - 23:29; John 10:1-21; Psalm 115:1-18; Proverbs 15:18-19

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 20

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

## **Tuesday, May 19**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 24:1 - 25:44; John 10:22-42; Psalm 116:1-19; Proverbs 15:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 55

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

## **Wednesday, May 20**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 26:1 - 28:25; John 11:1-54; Psalm 117:1-2; Proverbs 15:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 56

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

## **Thursday, May 21**

Scripture: 1 Sam. 29:1 - 31:13; John 11:55 - 12:19; Psalm 118:1-18; Proverbs 15:24-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 57

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

## **Friday, May 22**

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1 - 2:11; John 12:20-50; Psalm 118:19-29; Proverbs 15:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 58

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

## **Saturday, May 23**

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:12 - 3:39; John 13:1-30; Psalm 119:1-16; Proverbs 15:29-30

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 59

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

## **Sunday, May 24**

Scripture: 2 Samuel 4:1 - 6:23; John 13:31 - 14:14; Psalm 119:17-32; Prov. 15:31-32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 60

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 the main problems with the false teaching that had begun to infiltrate the church in Colossae was that it was adding man-made rules and experiences to faith in Christ. Rather than emphasizing that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, the false teachers said that true assurance required additional works and experiences. These kinds of additions to the Gospel subtract from the glory and the sufficiency of Christ. If we trust in Christ, we are complete in him and lack nothing. Alistair Wilson, in the *ESV Expository Commentary on Colossians*, writes:

Human beings are often attracted to dramatic acts of self-denial in their search for peace and for God. However, the message of the gospel refutes all such attempts to make a grand gesture for God. God has already accomplished all that is required in Christ, and so there is nothing further that can be done. Even those of us who have believed the gospel can be led to believe that externals are what matter most to God. If that begins to happen, we must be confronted with reality just as Paul confronted the Colossians. And the best way for that to happen is to do just what Paul did: present the true gospel again in its simplicity and completeness.

1. For review, scan Colossians 1-2 and try to remember key points and ideas that you have learned in our study of these chapters. How would you summarize Paul's main points in this letter so far? How have the sermons on these chapters helped you?
2. Read Colossians 2:16-17. What do you think was the appeal of holding to the Old Covenant types and shadows? How should we think of the Old Covenant types and shadows in light of what Christ has accomplished?
3. Read Colossians 2:18-19. What is so alluring about ecstatic religious experiences and the idea of new revelation? How would you counsel a Christian who was doubting his salvation because he never had a charismatic experience in his faith?
4. Read Colossians 2:20-23. What kinds of laws and rules do people add to the Christian faith today that often get in the way of the pure Gospel? How can you avoid doing this and keep your focus on Christ?



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