



 **GRACE**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 27, 2025

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,
for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

Psalm 61:2b-3

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 2 (p. 785 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

**The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together
against the LORD and against his Anointed One.**

“Let us break their chains,” they say, “and throw off their fetters.”

The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

**I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me,
“You are my Son; today I have become your Father.**

“Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

“You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

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

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

For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The golden evening brightens in the west; soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day; the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the
Countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.*

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we approach your throne of grace in sorrow and frustration as we consider how we have sinned against you and others.

All: We have broken your laws, and we have failed to love others as you command us in your Word. Though you have equipped us with many gifts and graces, we have not faithfully used them for your glory.

Leader: Have mercy on us and grant us forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ. Enable us to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

All: All glory be to you, O God, through 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**

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 21:1-11

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 261

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on! Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed (p. 846)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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*

Mark 10:35-45

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 5])

Hymn 51

O Jehovah, Hear My Words

O Jehovah, hear my words, to my thoughts attentive be;
Hear my cry, my King, my God, I will make my prayer to thee.
With the morning light, O Lord, thou shalt hear my voice arise,
And expectant I will bring prayer as morning sacrifice.

Thou, Jehovah, art a God who delightest not in sin;
Evil shall not dwell with thee, nor the proud thy favor win.
Evildoers thou dost hate, lying tongues thou wilt defeat;
God abhors the man who loves violence and base deceit.

In the fulness of thy grace to thy house I will repair;
Bowing toward thy holy place, in thy fear to worship there.
Lead me in thy righteousness, let my foes assail in vain;
Lest my feet be turned aside, make thy way before me plain.

False and faithless are my foes, in their mouth no truth is found;
Deadly are the words they speak, all their thoughts with sin abound.
Bring, O God, their plans to naught, hold them guilty in thy sight,
For against thee and thy law they have set themselves to fight.

O let all that trust thy care ever glad and joyful be;
Let them joy who love thy name, safely guarded, Lord, by thee.
For a blessing from thy store to the righteous thou wilt yield;
Thou wilt compass him about with thy favor as a shield. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Freed to Serve”
Exodus 21:1-11

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 308

Jesus Paid It All

I hear the Savior say, “Your strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me your all in all.”

*Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find your power, and yours alone,
Can change the leper’s spots, and melt the heart of stone.

*Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.*

For nothing good have I whereby your grace to claim—
I’ll wash my garments white in the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb.

*Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.*

And when, before the throne, I stand in him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save,” my lips shall still repeat.

*Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow. Amen.*

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his communion,
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings. Amen.*

SERMON NOTES

“Freed to Serve”

Exodus 21:1-11

Exodus 21:16; 1 Timothy 1:10

1. The location of these laws.

Exodus 22:21; 23:9

Ephesians 4:32; John 13:34-35

2. The content of these laws.

Deuteronomy 15:12-15

- ### 3. The way these laws revealed the Gospel.

Romans 6:22

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, July 28

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 21:1 - 23:21; Romans 11:13-36; Psalm 22:1-18; Prov. 20:7

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 10

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

Tuesday, July 29

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 24:1 - 25:28; Romans 12:1-21; Psalm 22:19-31; Prov. 20:8-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 17

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

Wednesday, July 30

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 26:1 - 28:27; Romans 13:1-14; Psalm 23:1-6; Proverbs 20:11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 18

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

Thursday, July 31

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 29:1-36; Romans 14:1-23; Psalm 24:1-10; Proverbs 20:12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 19

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

Friday, August 1

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 30:1 - 31:21; Romans 15:1-22; Psalm 25:1-15; Prov. 20:13-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 20

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

Saturday, August 2

Scripture: 2 Chron. 32:1 - 33:13; Romans 15:23 - 16:9; Psalm 25:16-22; Prov. 20:16-18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 21

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

Sunday, August 3

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 33:14 - 34:33; Romans 16:10-27; Psalm 26:1-12; Prov. 20:19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 22

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

One of the problems unbelievers often express about the Bible is that it seems to condone slavery. We see the evils of involuntary slavery in the history of many countries and even today because of the millions of people who are forcefully trafficked. The Bible clearly prohibits this kind of slavery (Exodus 21:16; 1 Timothy 1:10). We should readily acknowledge the evils of such a practice. However, the kind of slavery that is described in Exodus 21:1-11 and other parts of the Bible is voluntary slavery that some would choose in order to pay off a debt or to be provided with food and shelter. We see God's wisdom and goodness in establishing laws that regulated this practice to protect the weak and the poor, and also to teach his people about the Gospel. In the fullness of time, God would send his Son to pay the debt his people owed so that they would be freed to serve him as their Lord out of joy and gratitude. We live in this present joy in the New Covenant, and we look forward to the everlasting joy of being under Christ's lordship for eternity. Dan Doriani in his commentary on Romans writes:

When we have reigned with the Lord and his children for ten thousand years, not a day, not an hour, will have been spent. We will not be one second closer to the end of eternal life. And what a life it will be! Forever dwelling in God's light, without tears, pains, or loss, enjoying the best of song, of worship, of feasting, of the presence of blessed Jesus. And we will be with him forever. Until then, Romans 6 teaches us who we are so that we can let that truth shape us. Because we died and rose with Christ, we belong to him, and dedicate to him the full measure of our devotion. Yes, we face temptations and we succumb on occasion. But we are slaves no more... Liberated from sin's domination, we begin service to a kind Master. So the grand indicatives of redemption give rise to the essential imperatives—that we act as if we are alive, as if we control our desires, as if we are instruments of God's righteousness.

1. Why is it significant that the slave laws are located toward the beginning of the Book of the Covenant? What was God teaching the people of Israel by prioritizing laws about how they should treat slaves?
2. How do these laws reveal God's wisdom and goodness?
3. Read Romans 6:15-23. What does Paul mean when he says that as believers we are slaves of God? Why is being a slave of God true freedom?
4. Read Paul's letter to Philemon. Paul wrote this letter to reconcile the relationship between a slave named Onesimus and Philemon, his master. How does the way Paul speaks about Onesimus reveal the equality and unity the gospel creates between Jews and Gentiles, slaves and freed men? What does this teach you about how to treat others?
5. What did you learn in the sermon today that you want to prayerfully apply this week?



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