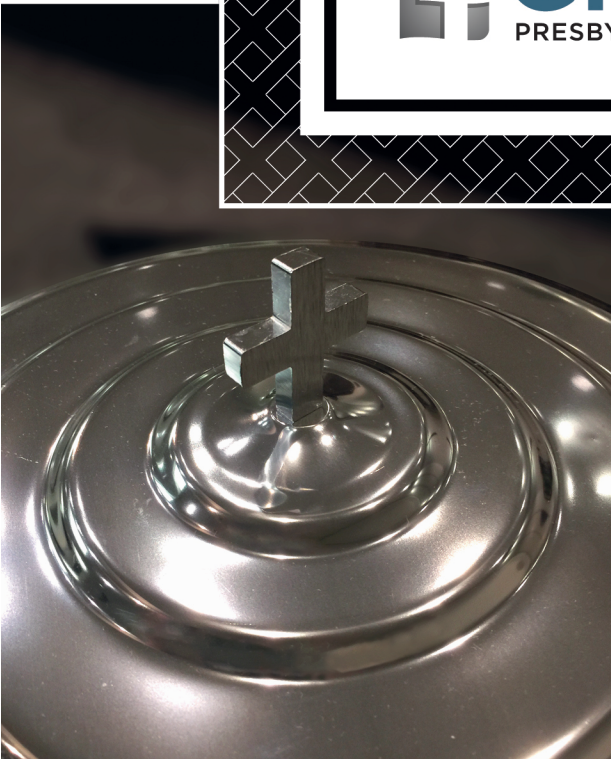




 **GRACE**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

August 25, 2024

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

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.

Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands

Amidst us our Beloved stands,
And bids us view his pierced hands;
Points to the wounded feet and side,
Blest emblems of the Crucified.

What food luxurious loads the board,
When at his table sits the Lord!
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet,
When Jesus deigns the guests to meet!

If now, with eyes defiled and dim,
We see the signs, but see not him;
O may his love the scales displace,
And bid us see him face to face!

O glorious Bridegroom of our hearts,
Your present smile a heav'n imparts!
O lift the veil, if veil there be,
Let every saint your glory see! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God, we believe that your Law is holy, and your commandments are righteous and good. Your Law reveals our sin and how desperately we need your saving grace.

All: The Sixth Commandment is: "You shall not murder."

Leader: We confess that we have broken this commandment by harboring thoughts of sinful anger and hatred toward others. Rather than loving our enemies and praying for those who trouble us, we have instead responded with cold indifference and feelings of contempt.

All: Forgive us and grant us a growing desire to love and serve you and others as we follow after 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

Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 4:27 - 5:18

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 348

Jesus, with Thy Church Abide

Jesus, with thy church abide, be her Savior, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried: we beseech thee, hear us.

Keep her life and doctrine pure; grant her patience to endure,
Trusting in thy promise sure: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she one in doctrine be, one in truth and charity,
Winning all to faith in thee: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost until she find,
And the brokenhearted bind: we beseech thee, hear us.

Save her love from growing cold, make her watchmen strong and bold,
Fence her round, thy peaceful fold: we beseech thee, hear us.

May her lamp of truth be bright, bid her bear aloft its light
Through the realms of heathen night: we beseech thee, hear us.

Arm her soldiers with the cross, brave to suffer toil or loss,
Counting earthly gain but dross: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she holy triumphs win, overthrow the hosts of sin,
Gather all the nations in: we beseech thee, hear us. 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*

Matthew 11:25-30

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 103])

Hymn 6

O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord

O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord thy Maker, and all within me bless his holy name;
Bless thou the Lord, forget not all his mercies, his pard'ning grace and saving love proclaim.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.

Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion, most slow to anger, plenteous in love;
Rich is his grace to all that humbly seek him, boundless and endless as the heav'ns above.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.

His love is like a father's to his children, tender and kind to all who fear his name;
For well he knows our weakness and our frailty, he knows that we are dust, he knows our frame.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.

We fade and die like flow'rs that grow in beauty, like tender grass that soon will disappear;
But evermore the love of God is changeless, still shown to those who look to him in fear.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.

High in the heav'ns his throne is fixed forever, his kingdom rules o'er all from pole to pole;
Bless ye the Lord through all his wide dominion, bless his most holy name, O thou my soul.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Freedom in Christ”
Exodus 4:27 - 5:18

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 482

Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

“Come unto me, ye weary, and I will give you rest.”
O blessed voice of Jesus which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending, of love which cannot cease.

“Come unto me, dear children, and I will give you light.”
O loving voice of Jesus which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness, and we had lost our way;
But morning brings us gladness, and songs the break of day.

“Come unto me, ye fainting, and I will give you life.”
O peaceful voice of Jesus which comes to end our strife!
The foe is stern and eager, the fight is fierce and long;
But thou hast made us mighty, and stronger than the strong.

“And whosoever cometh I will not cast him out.”
O patient love of Jesus which drives away our doubt;
Which calls us, very sinners, unworthy though we be
Of love so free and boundless, to come, dear Lord, to thee! 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.*

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, August 26

Scripture: Job 20:1 - 22:30; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Psalm 40:11-17; Proverbs 22:2-4

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 28

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

Tuesday, August 27

Scripture: Job 23:1 - 27:23; 2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:11; Psalm 41:1-13; Proverbs 22:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 50

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

Wednesday, August 28

Scripture: Job 28:1 - 30:31; 2 Corinthians 2:12-17; Psalm 42:1-11; Proverbs 22:7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 51

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the Solomon Islands and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, August 29

Scripture: Job 31:1 - 33:33; 2 Corinthians 3:1-18; Psalm 43:1-5; Proverbs 22:8-9

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 52

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

Friday, August 30

Scripture: Job 34:1 - 36:33; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; Psalm 44:1-8; Proverbs 22:10-12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 53

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

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

Saturday, August 31

Scripture: Job 37:1 - 39:30; 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:10; Psalm 44:9-26; Proverbs 22:13

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 54

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

Sunday, September 1

Scripture: Job 40:1 - 42:17; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Psalm 45:1-17; Proverbs 22:14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 55

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

Exodus 4:27 - 5:18 describes Israel's harsh conditions under slavery. In his dealings with Israel, Pharaoh was the personification of evil. Pharaoh was in league with Satan to oppose God and his promised Messiah (Pharaoh was one of the many kings throughout history who hated God and his Messiah [Psalm 2]). Israel's slavery and how God ultimately delivered them through the blood of the Passover Lamb was a type or a foreshadow of what God would do for his people in the fullness of time through Jesus Christ. We know this because Israel's deliverance from Egypt was later described as a "redemption" in Exodus 6:6, just as the cross is described as a redemption in the New Testament. The Good News of the Gospel is that Christ has set us free from the dominion of Satan and sin. He has brought us into his Kingdom, so that we can now serve him as our Master, Lord, God, and King. Serving Christ is true freedom.

1. Read Westminster Confession of Faith 9 (Of Free Will). How does Paragraph 3 describe our slavery to sin? How do you see this demonstrated in this morning's sermon passage and also in the world today?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:20 and Revelation 5:9. How do these passages describe our redemption through Christ? Compare your answer with Westminster Confession of Faith 9.4. How does faith in Christ grant true freedom?
3. How does Jesus describe our service to him in Matthew 11:28-30? How is this completely different than living under the oppression of Satan and sin?
4. Reflect on the four blessings noted in the sermon outline under the second point: abundant mercy, Sabbath rest, everlasting joy, and eternal purpose. How have you benefitted from these in your walk with Christ? How might you apply these to your church life as a member of our covenant community here at Grace?



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