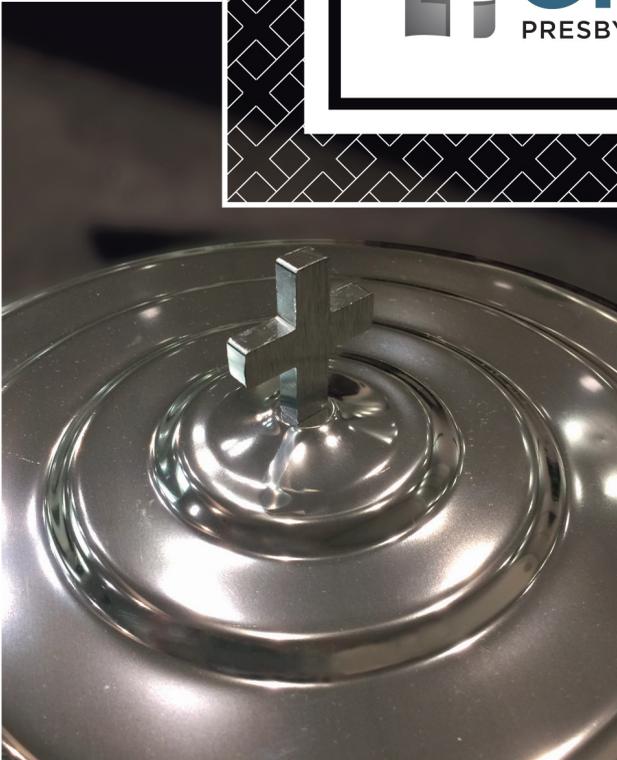




The logo for Grace Presbyterian Church is centered within a white rectangular box. On the left is a stylized grey cross icon. To its right, the word "GRACE" is written in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. Below "GRACE", the words "PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" are written in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font. The background of the box features a repeating geometric pattern of white diamonds on a dark blue background.



WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 3, 2025

“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them,
for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

Mark 10:14b

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 31:15-24 (p. 795 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.

Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I have cried out to you;
but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave.

**Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly
against the righteous.**

How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you,

which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.

In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men;

in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues.

Praise be to the LORD, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city.

In my alarm I said, “I am cut off from your sight!”

Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help.

Love the LORD, all his saints!

The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

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

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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth;
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blessed;
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—that name to us is Love. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Law which reveals your holiness and our sinfulness.

All: The Seventh Commandment of your Law is, "You shall not commit adultery."

Leader: Lord, we confess that we have broken this commandment. We have lusted with our eyes and entertained perverse thoughts in our minds. Rather than seeking to preserve our own and our neighbor's chastity, we have failed and ask for your forgiveness.

All: Enable us by your Holy Spirit to put off sin and to put on Christ. Help us in our fight against sin, and empower us to act, speak, and think in ways that glorify you. We ask all this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:22-25

Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 21:12-36

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 529

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest:
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 13. *Did our first parents continue in the estate in which they were created?*

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate in which they were created, by sinning against God.

Q. 14. *What is sin?*

A. Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the Law of God.

Q. 15. *What was the sin by which our first parents fell from the estate in which they were created?*

A. The sin by which our first parents fell from the estate in which they were created, was their eating of the forbidden fruit.

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*

Exodus 22:1-17; 21-28; 23:1-9

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [based on Psalm 31])

Hymn 684

My Times Are in Thy Hand

My times are in thy hand;
My God, I wish them there;
My life, my friends, my soul, I leave
Entirely to thy care.

My times are in thy hand,
Whatever they may be;
Pleasing or painful, dark or bright,
As best may seem to thee.

My times are in thy hand;
Why should I doubt or fear?
My Father's hand will never cause
His child a needless tear.

My times are in thy hand,
Jesus the Crucified;
Those hands my cruel sins had pierced
Are now my guard and guide. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,
All thy lambs in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand;
None can pluck them from thy hand.

May they praise thee every day,
Gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessed ones above,
Happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,
Teach thy lambs thy voice to hear;
Suffer not their steps to stray
From the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest may they go,
Walking in thy steps below;
Then, before thy Father's throne,
Savior, claim them for thine own. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“New Hearts by Grace”
Exodus 21:12-22:17; 21-28; 23:1-9

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 465

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

*Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the Refuge, the mighty cross.

*Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, what can avail to wash it away?
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide; whiter than snow you may be today.

*Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin. 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.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, August 4

Scripture: 2 Chron. 35:1 - 36:23; 1 Corinthians 1:1-17; Psalm 27:1-6; Prov. 20:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 11

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

Tuesday, August 5

Scripture: Ezra 1:1 - 2:70; 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5; Psalm 27:7-14; Proverbs 20:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 23

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

Wednesday, August 6

Scripture: Ezra 3:1 - 4:23; 1 Corinthians 2:6 - 3:4; Psalm 28:1-9; Proverbs 20:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 24

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in American Samoa and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, August 7

Scripture: Ezra 4:24 - 6:22; 1 Corinthians 3:5-23; Psalm 29:1-11; Proverbs 20:26-27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 25

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

Friday, August 8

Scripture: Ezra 7:1 - 8:20; 1 Corinthians 4:1-21; Psalm 30:1-12; Proverbs 20:28-30

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 26

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

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

Saturday, August 9

Scripture: Ezra 8:21 - 9:15; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Psalm 31:1-8; Proverbs 21:1-2

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 27

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

Sunday, August 10

Scripture: Ezra 10:1-44; 1 Corinthians 6:1-20; Psalm 31:9-18; Proverbs 21:3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 28

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 challenges of reading through the Bible is knowing how to interpret the numerous laws in the Old Testament. Many of us are familiar with how the moral and ceremonial laws pointed to Christ, but what about the various civil laws in the Old Testament? How should we understand them, and how did they point to Christ?

We need to understand that they were specifically for the people of Israel under the Old Covenant. God gave them these laws to teach them how to live as a holy nation under his rule and authority. While these laws revealed God's holy standard, they also revealed that the people of Israel were unable to meet his standard because they failed to keep the civil laws as a nation. The law was powerless to change their hearts. The good news of the Gospel is that Christ came and lived in obedience to all of God's law (moral, ceremonial, and civil), and he has also changed our hearts to desire obedience and love him more than sin. Though we still sin as Christians, we are never at peace in our sin. The Puritan George Swinnock said that in a godly person's heart, "Though some sin is left, no sin is liked; though some sin remains, yet no sin reigns."

1. Review the following passages and notice how they are each based on one of the 10 Commandments. Why is it significant that Israel's civil law was based on God's moral law?
Exodus 21:12-32 — the 6th Commandment
Exodus 21:33 - 22:15 — the 8th Commandment
Exodus 22:16-17 — the 7th Commandment
Exodus 22:21-28 — the 5th Commandment
Exodus 23:1-9 — the 9th Commandment
2. What does Westminster Confession of Faith 19.4 mean when it refers to "general principles of justice" (sometimes simply stated as general equity)? How does the Apostle Paul apply this principle in 1 Corinthians 9:8-12? What are some other ways we might apply it today?
3. Why is adding more laws not an effective way of stopping sin? What is needed according to Ezekiel 36:26-27?
4. What did you learn in the sermon today that you want to prayerfully apply this week?



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