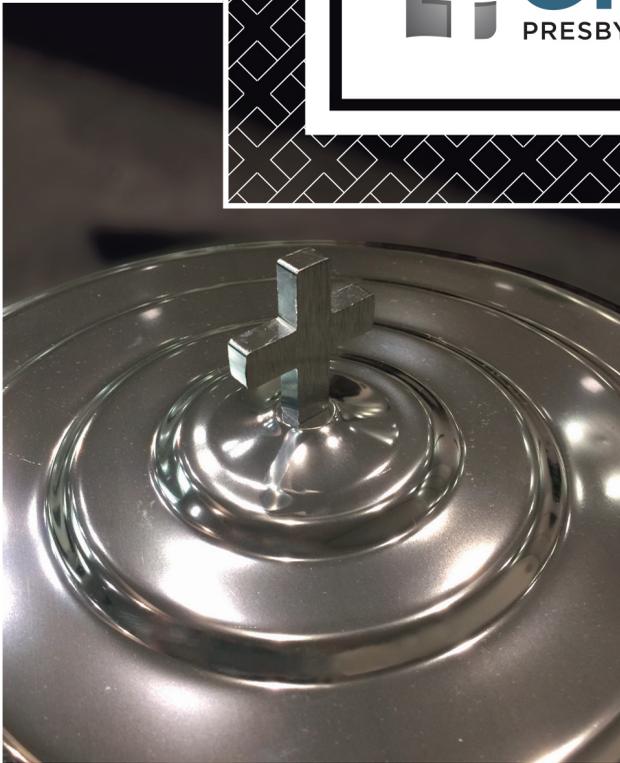




**GRACE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The logo is centered within a white rectangular box with a thin blue border. To the left of the text is a stylized cross icon composed of three overlapping rectangular shapes. The background of the box features a repeating geometric pattern of interlocking diamonds in white and blue.

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 31, 2025

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.  
Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

**Psalm 63:2-3**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

**Greeting and Blessing\***

**Responsive Reading\***

Psalm 23 (p. 791 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he restores my soul.**

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

**You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.**

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

*\* 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:** Heavenly Father, we come before you with guilt and shame as we consider how we have offended you by our sinful actions, our hurtful words, and our disgraceful thoughts.

**All:** You know us even better than we know ourselves; none of our sins are hidden from your sight. It grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray, and grant us repentant hearts. Enable us to lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and strengthen us to run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at your right hand.

**All:** All praise, honor, glory, and power be to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Private Confession of Our Sins**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

1 Timothy 1:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Exodus 25:23-30

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 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\*

Exodus 37:10-16

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.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Table of the Bread of the Presence”  
Exodus 25:23-30; 37:10-16

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 420

### *At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing*

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing  
Praise to our victorious King,  
Who has washed us in the tide  
Flowing from his pierced side;  
Praise we him whose love divine  
Gives his sacred blood for wine,  
Gives his body for the feast,  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured,  
Death’s dark angel sheathes his sword;  
Israel’s hosts triumphant go  
Through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
Paschal victim, paschal bread;  
With sincerity and love  
Eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from the sky,  
Pow’rs of hell beneath thee lie;  
Death is conquered in the fight,  
Thou hast brought us life and light:  
Hymns of glory and of praise,  
Risen Lord, to thee we raise;  
Holy Father, praise to thee,  
With the Spirit, ever be. 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, September 1**

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 15

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

## **Tuesday, September 2**

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1 - 3:22; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Psalm 46:1-11; Proverbs 22:15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 47

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

## **Wednesday, September 3**

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:1 - 6:12; 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:7; Psalm 47:1-9; Prov. 22:16

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 48

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Antigua and Barbuda and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, September 4**

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 7:1 - 9:18; 2 Corinthians 7:8-16; Psalm 48:1-14; Prov. 22:17-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 49

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

## **Friday, September 5**

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 10:1 - 12:14; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Psalm 49:1-20; Prov. 22:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 50

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

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

## **Saturday, September 6**

Scripture: Song of Solomon 1:1 - 4:16; 2 Cor. 8:16-24; Psalm 50:1-23; Prov. 22:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 51

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

## **Sunday, September 7**

Scripture: Song of Solomon 5:1 - 8:14; 2 Cor. 9:1-15; Psalm 51:1-19; Prov. 22:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 52

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

The table of the bread of the Presence was the second item the Lord instructed Moses and the people of Israel to build as part of the Tabernacle. It was built of acacia wood and covered in gold, and on top of it there were two stacks of 12 loaves of bread and pitchers of wine. The bread on the table was the “bread of the Presence” because it was presented to the Lord within the Holy Place and was to be eaten in his presence every Sabbath Day by the priests. The bread revealed God’s presence with his people and his gracious provision.

While this Old Covenant meal was beautiful and encouraging for the priests of Israel, it pointed forward to a better meal that was instituted by the Lord Jesus. In the New Covenant sacrament of communion all believers are invited, not just clergy. When we eat together, we experience a better presence because we are united to Christ by the Holy Spirit and commune with him by faith in our hearts. We also experience a better provision, because we are not only nourished physically but spiritually as it is a means of grace for us. Jesus is our True Bread from heaven who satisfies our every need now and forever.

1. Read the sermon passages in Exodus 25:23-30 and 37:10-16. Why did God provide so many details about how the items in the Tabernacle should be built?
2. How did the bread of the Presence reveal God’s presence with his people? Why is it significant that God instituted a meal for this? Can you think of other meals in the Bible that reveal God’s desire to fellowship with his people?
3. How did the bread reveal God’s provision for his people? What do you think about when you pray “give us our daily bread” in the Lord’s Prayer?
4. Consider the third point in the sermon outline and the connections to Christ. How might meditating on these greater blessings through Christ enrich your worship on the Lord’s Day when you receive communion?
5. Why is Christ the True Bread from heaven according to John 6:52-58? How does being reminded of your eternal life through Christ strengthen and encourage you for the coming week?



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