



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 118:29

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 111 (p. 826 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Praise the LORD.

**I will extol the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.**

Great are the works of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

**Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.**

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

**He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.**

He has shown his people the power of his works,
giving them the lands of other nations.

**The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.**

They are steadfast for ever and ever,
done in faithfulness and uprightness.

**He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

To him belongs eternal praise.

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

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Law which reveals your holiness and our sinfulness. The First Commandment of your Law is, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

All: We confess that though you are the God who brought us out of slavery to Satan, sin, and death through Jesus Christ, we have sinned against you by trusting in our own strength and not giving you the glory and honor that you alone deserve. Forgive us and enable us to prioritize you in our lives by worshiping you and seeking to live for your glory and praise. Thank you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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*

Esther 5

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 519

Fountain of Never-Ceasing Grace

Fountain of never-ceasing grace,
Your saints' exhaustless theme,
Great object of immortal praise,
Essentially supreme;
We bless you for the glorious fruits
Your incarnation gives,
The righteousness which grace imputes,
And faith alone receives.

In you we have a righteousness
By God himself approved;
Our rock, our sure foundation this,
Which never can be moved.
Our ransom by your death was paid,
For all your people giv'n,
The law you perfectly obeyed,
That they might enter heav'n.

As all, when Adam sinned alone,
In his transgression died,
So by the righteousness of One
Are sinners justified;
We to your merit, gracious Lord,
With humblest joy submit,
Again to paradise restored,
In you alone complete. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 33. *What is justification?*

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, in which he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q. 34. *What is adoption?*

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, by which we are received as sons of God, and have a right to all the privileges of that standing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

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*

Esther 6

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month: Psalm 130)

(music printed on p. 12)

LORD, from the Depths to You I Cry!

LORD, from the depths to you I cry!
O Lord, to me give ear
And give attention to my voice;
My cry for mercy hear.

If you, O LORD, should mark our sins,
Then who, O Lord, could stand?
But pardon can be found with you
That you may fear command.

I wait, my soul awaits the LORD;
My hope is in his Word.
Yes, more than watchmen wait for dawn,
My soul awaits the Lord.

O Isr'el, hope in God the LORD,
For mercy is with him;
With great redemption he will save
His Isr'el from all sin. Amen.

“God’s Subtle Sovereign Providence”
Esther 5-6

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 108

Whate’er My God Ordains Is Right

Whate’er my God ordains is right:
His holy will abideth;
I will be still whate’er he doth,
And follow where he guideth.
He is my God; though dark my road,
He holds me that I shall not fall:
Wherefore to him I leave it all.

Whate’er my God ordains is right:
He never will deceive me;
He leads me by the proper path;
I know he will not leave me.
I take, content, what he hath sent;
His hand can turn my griefs away,
And patiently I wait his day.

Whate’er my God ordains is right:
Though now this cup, in drinking,
May bitter seem to my faint heart,
I take it, all unshrinking.
My God is true; each morn anew
Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart,
And pain and sorrow shall depart.

Whate’er my God ordains is right:
Here shall my stand be taken;
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
Yet am I not forsaken.
My Father’s care is round me there;
He holds me that I shall not fall:
And so to him I leave it all. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in One, O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

SERMON NOTES

“God’s Subtle Sovereign Providence” Esther 5-6

1. Be courageous *and* wise. (Esther 5:1-8)
Proverbs 15:28; 25:28, 15
2. Don't be surprised by opposition. (Esther 5:9-14)
John 15:18-21; Romans 8:38-39
3. Trust in God's (often subtle) sovereign providence. (Esther 6)
1 Kings 22:34; Matthew 6:28-30

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, September 14

Scripture: Isaiah 15:1 - 18:7; Galatians 1:1-24; Psalm 58:1-11; Proverbs 23:12

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 4

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

Tuesday, September 15

Scripture: Isaiah 19:1 - 21:17; Galatians 2:1-16; Psalm 59:1-17; Proverbs 23:13-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 50

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

Wednesday, September 16

Scripture: Isaiah 22:1 - 24:23; Galatians 2:17 - 3:9; Psalm 60:1-12; Proverbs 23:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 51

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

Thursday, September 17

Scripture: Isaiah 25:1 - 28:13; Galatians 3:10-22; Psalm 61:1-8; Proverbs 23:17-18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 52

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

Friday, September 18

Scripture: Isaiah 28:14 - 30:11; Galatians 3:23 - 4:31; Psalm 62:1-12; Prov. 23:19-21

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, September 19

Scripture: Isaiah 30:12 - 33:9; Galatians 5:1-12; Psalm 63:1-11; Proverbs 23:22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 54

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

Sunday, September 20

Scripture: Isaiah 33:10 - 36:22; Galatians 5:13-26; Psalm 64:1-10; Proverbs 23:23

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 the Dominican Republic

Dave Eby in Uganda

Christ Bible Institute in Japan

The Shepherd's Church in Riverside

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Esther 5-6, we learn how Esther, after a time of prayer, began to strategize about how to save herself and her people from being killed. She did not rush into things, but instead took into account how to best approach king Ahasuerus. She was tactful and shrewd, especially since she knew Haman's hatred for the Jews and the fact that the execution date of the king's decree was approaching. Esther is a good example from the Bible about the importance of being both courageous and wise because we live in a fallen world and face opposition from the world, the flesh, and the devil. In the Bible, God teaches us how to gain eternal life, but he also teaches us how to live wisely in this life. The good news is that while we are taught how to live wisely, what will ultimately happen to us and to the world is not in our hands but in the hands of our sovereign God. The story of Esther is a powerful example of how God accomplishes his perfect will for his people and his glory.

1. Read Esther 5:1-8 and review the readings from Proverbs noted in the first point of the sermon. How did Esther display both courage and wisdom? What do you learn from these passages that you can apply in your life?
2. Read Esther 5:9-14. What was behind Haman and his family's hatred of Mordecai and the Jews? What does Jesus teach us in John 15:18-21 about how we should understand the opposition we experience in the world?
3. Read Esther 6 and consider how this chapter reveals God's subtle sovereign providence. How should knowing about God's providence encourage you, especially in light of what Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:28-30?

130A LORD, from the Depths to You I Cry!

1. ¹LORD, from the depths to you I cry!

2. ³If you, O LORD, should mark our sins,

3. ⁵I wait, my soul a - waits the LORD;

4. ⁷O Is - r'el, hope in God the LORD,

²O Lord, to me give ear and give at - ten - tion
then who, O Lord, could stand? ⁴But par - don can be
my hope is in his word. ⁶Yes, more than watch - men
for mer - cy is with him; ⁸with great re - demp - tion

to my voice; my cry for mer - cy hear.
found with you that you may fear com - mand.
wait for dawn, my soul a - waits the Lord.
he will save his Is - r'el from all sin.



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