



GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Psalm 34:8

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 47 (p. 803 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!

He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham,

for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

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

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

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
For thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me:
And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we acknowledge along with the psalmist that “the sum of your Word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.” The Second Commandment of your Law is: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

All: We confess that we have broken this commandment by making idols of wealth, comfort, and pleasure. We have neglected to worship you in sincerity and to prioritize your glory. Forgive us and enable us by your Holy Spirit to serve and please you in newness of life, through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord in whose Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 44:21-22

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Esther 7

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. 35. *What is sanctification?*

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, by which we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness.

Q. 36. *What are the benefits that in this life accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?*

A. The benefits that in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are: assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and perseverance to the end.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ✧

Doxology*

Hymn 732

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*

Colossians 2:6-15

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.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Gospel Themes”
Esther 7

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev’ry sin on him was laid—here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his and he is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—this is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home—here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to TRINITY)

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

“Gospel Themes” Esther 7

1. Identification
Hebrews 2:11-14; 4:15-16
2. Intercession
Hebrews 7:25
3. Judgment and Salvation
Colossians 2:13-15

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, September 21

Scripture: Isaiah 37:1 – 38:22; Galatians 6:1-18; Psalm 65:1-13; Proverbs 23:24

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 5

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

Tuesday, September 22

Scripture: Isaiah 39:1 – 41:16; Ephesians 1:1-23; Psalm 66:1-20; Proverbs 23:25-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 56

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

Wednesday, September 23

Scripture: Isaiah 41:17 – 43:13; Ephesians 2:1-22; Psalm 67:1-7; Proverbs 23:29-35

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 57

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

Thursday, September 24

Scripture: Isaiah 43:14 – 45:10; Ephesians 3:1-21; Psalm 68:1-18; Proverbs 24:1-2

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 58

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

Friday, September 25

Scripture: Isaiah 45:11 – 48:11; Ephesians 4:1-16; Psalm 68:19-35; Proverbs 24:3-4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 59

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

Saturday, September 26

Scripture: Isaiah 48:12 – 50:11; Ephesians 4:17-32; Psalm 69:1-18; Proverbs 24:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 60

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

Sunday, September 27

Scripture: Isaiah 51:1 – 53:12; Ephesians 5:1-33; Psalm 69:19-36; Proverbs 24:7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 61

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

Esther 7 records Esther's courageous intercession for her and her people. While being well-aware of the dangers of confronting King Ahasuerus about the decree he had approved, she nevertheless trusted in the Lord and in his covenant faithfulness. Esther 7 is full of gospel themes, all of which point to Christ and his saving work. It also powerfully points forward to Christ's final victory over evil on the Last Day. In his commentary on Esther, Wallace Ben writes:

God's people should never despair or be pessimistic in the affairs of life, but keep trusting and remaining dependent upon God. This passage, as does all of God's Word, calls us to be confident in the sovereignty of our God, to be confident in the fact that our God reigns. Even if we can't always see his purposes or understand his ways, we need to trust him to act for the well-being of his people, whom he will ultimately save. The Psalms are full of encouragement to trust God in the ups and down of life, assuring us that his steadfast covenant love will see us through (a favorite of mine is Psalm 62). The New Testament puts all of this into an eternal dimension. God will save, keep, bless, and bring his people to Heaven, and no one will prevent him from doing that. We can be confident in the sovereignty of God and his providential care.

1. Read Esther 7:1-6. What is the significance of Esther identifying herself with God's covenant people? How does it point to Christ according to Hebrews 2:11-14; 4:15-16?
2. How does her intercession in these verses exemplify the gospel theme of Christ's intercession for us as our Mediator according to Hebrews 7:25? How should knowing that Christ "always lives to make intercession for us" encourage us daily?
3. Read Esther 7:7-10. What do these verses reveal about the Gospel theme of judgment and salvation? How was the cross, which was meant to be a symbol of Christ's defeat, instead a symbol of his victory according to Colossians 2:13-15?

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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