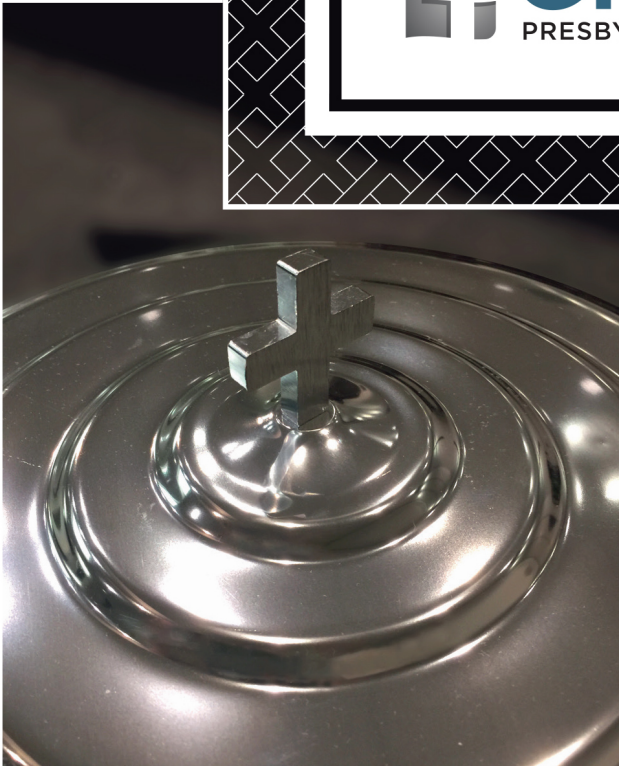
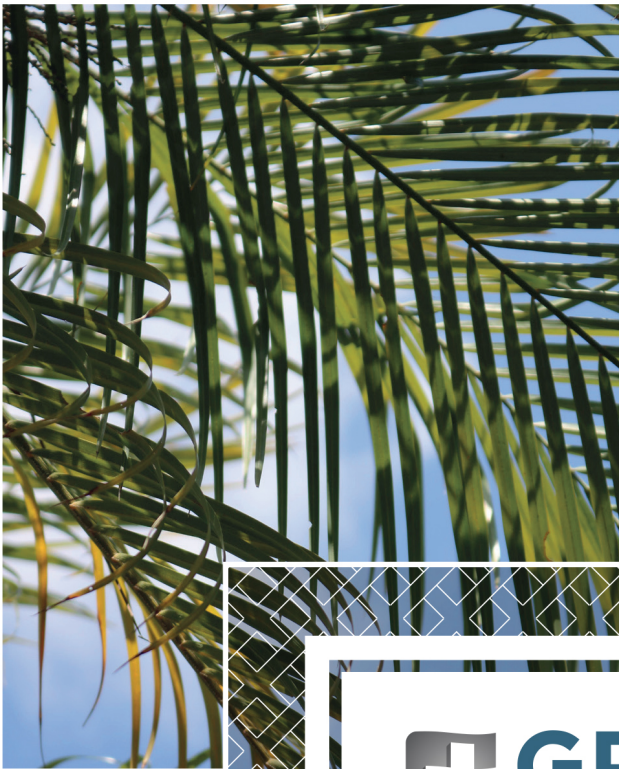




WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, September 6, 2026

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

Psalms 34:8

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalms 130 (p. 833 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?

**But with you there is forgiveness;
therefore you are feared.**

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

**My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait
for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD
is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

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

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do, if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief, spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly fore'er we adore him. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: O Lord our God, you are awesome in majesty, power, and strength! Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain you. You reveal yourself in light, and in you there is no darkness at all. As we consider your glory and holiness, we are humbled and readily acknowledge our sinfulness.

All: We confess that we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Grant us repentant hearts to understand the sinfulness of our sins but also the assurance of forgiveness that comes by faith in the Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. 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 4

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. 30. *How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Q. 31. *What is effectual calling?*

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, by which, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 32. *What benefits are there in this life for those who are effectually called?*

A. Those who are effectually called partake in justification, adoption, sanctification, and the other benefits that, in this life, do either accompany them or flow from them.

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*

1 Peter 1:3-9

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

“For Such a Time as This”
Esther 4

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 642

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
Thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tow’r:
Raise thou me heav’n-ward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all. 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.

SERMON NOTES

“For Such a Time as This” Esther 4

1. God always has a purpose in your trials.
1 Peter 1:7; Romans 8:28
2. Respond with prayer.
Joel 2:12-14
3. Respond with action.
Daniel 3:17-18

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, 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 Confession of Faith: Chapter 3

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

Tuesday, September 8

Scripture: Isaiah 1:1 - 2:22; 2 Corinthians 10:1-18; Psalm 52:1-9; Proverbs 22:26-27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 44

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

Wednesday, September 9

Scripture: Isaiah 3:1 - 5:30; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15; Psalm 53:1-6; Proverbs 22:28-29

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 45

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Ecuador and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, September 10

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1 - 7:25; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33; Psalm 54:1-7; Proverbs 23:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 46

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

Friday, September 11

Scripture: Isaiah 8:1 - 9:21; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Psalm 55:1-23; Proverbs 23:4-5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 47

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

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

Saturday, September 12

Scripture: Isaiah 10:1 - 11:16; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21; Psalm 56:1-13; Proverbs 23:6-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 48

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

Sunday, September 13

Scripture: Isaiah 12:1 - 14:32; 2 Corinthians 13:1-14; Psalm 57:1-11; Proverbs 23:9-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 49

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 4 marks a decisive turning point for Mordecai and Esther. So far in the story we have seen them compromise with sin and blend in with pagan Persian culture. However, in chapter 4, they both reveal their faith in the Lord and desire to follow him no matter the consequences. Mordecai prayed and sought Esther's help. And Esther, after acknowledging the danger of taking action to save her people, went forward with resolve and trust in the Lord. It wasn't until God brought them to a point of trial and difficulty that both of them turned from the world and followed him. This is how God matures us in our faith. J.I. Packer in his book, *Knowing God*, explains that God does this:

Not by shielding us from assault by the world, the flesh and the devil, nor by protecting us from burdensome and frustrating circumstances...but rather by exposing us to all these things, so as to overwhelm us with a sense of our own inadequacy, he drives us to cling to him more closely. The Bible spends so much of its time reiterating that God is a strong rock, a firm defense, and a sure refuge and help for the weak to bring home to us that we are weak, [and must learn] to wait on the Lord.

1. Review Esther 2:19 - 3:15. How does this part of the story reveal the greater battle that was and is raging in the spiritual realm against Christ and his church?
2. Read Esther 4:1-3 and Joel 2:12-14. What is the importance of prayer in our lives as Christians? How does going through trials often help us mature and be more consistent in prayer?
3. Reflect on the trials you have experienced and perhaps are currently going through in your life. How has your faith been affected? Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and consider how God might be using the trials in your life for your growth in grace.
4. What is the connection between prayer and action? Why are both important in the Christian life?
5. What does Mordecai mean in Esther 4:14? What makes this such a powerful statement of faith and trust in the Lord? How do Mordecai's words encourage you in your faith?

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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