



GRACE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE

October 26, 2025

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Romans 1:16-17

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 46 (p. 802 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and
the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**

though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.**

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD Almighty is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

**He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

The LORD Almighty is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God, you caution us in your Word, saying: "Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass it by."

All: Father, we confess that we have not obeyed your Word. Though you have blessed us with eternal riches in Christ, we have preferred the ways of this world. We have rebelled against your wisdom and sought after foolishness. We have rejected your fatherly commands and have done what is right in our own eyes.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and enable us by your Holy Spirit to love your commandments and to walk in your ways.

All: 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

Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Isaiah 53

Congregational Response

Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer; there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Savior, He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need His power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me; through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven; the future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated; Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus; all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: yet not I, but through Christ in me. 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*

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Congregational Response

Hymn 347

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word:
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
Against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Rev. Dr. David E. Briones

“A Backwards Theology: Self-Giving, not Self-Grasping”
Mark 10:32-52

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart.
I know that while in heav’n he stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die.
My soul is purchased by his blood!
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God. 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

“A Backwards Theology: Self-Giving, not Self-Grasping”
Mark 10:32-52

1. A Theology of Glory: A Life of Self-Grasping
2. A Theology of the Cross: A Life of Self-Giving
3. Seeing Christ Clearly: “What do you want me to do for you?”

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In his *Heidelberg Disputation*, written in 1518, Luther distinguishes between a theology of *glory* and a theology of the *cross*. In short, these theologies are two different ways of seeing Christ. In Mark 10:32-52, James, John, and the rest of the disciples long for authority, power, and glory. Consequently, their lives are marked by self-grasping ambition. But Jesus displays his glory through weakness, shame, and suffering, calling on them to embrace his backwards theology—a theology of the cross—and the self-giving life it produces. In doing so, he challenges us to consider the way our theology relates to real life.

1. Read Mark 8:27-33; 9:30-34; 10:32-41. What do these Passion Predictions have in common? Do the disciples lack spiritual understanding about the person of Christ and even their own calling? What do they want?
2. Read Mark 10:42-44. How does Jesus confront the disciples' theology of glory? Does Jesus forbid authority in the church or abuse of authority? What does it mean to be "slave of all" (v. 44)?
3. Read Daniel 7:13-14 and Mark 10:45. How does Jesus change the disciples' version of the "Son of Man"? Why does Jesus "give his life as a ransom for many"? How does this challenge us to adopt his backwards theology leading to a life of self-giving rather than self-grasping for glory?
4. Read Mark 10:46-52. Why would Mark include the healing of blind Bartimaeus right after Jesus' exchange with his disciples? Do you see any parallels between the two (hint: compare vv. 36 and 51)?
5. How can we fall into the trap of self-grasping for glory? How do we receive Mark 10:45 as a *gift* and an *example*?



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