



**TRINITY**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# RETURN FROM EXILE

E Z R A & N E H E M I A H



## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Christian faith took root and flourished in an atmosphere almost entirely pagan, where cruelty and sexual immorality were taken for granted, where slavery and inferiority of women were universally accepted, while superstitions, cults and contending religions, with all kinds of bogus claims, existed on every hand.

Within this pagan mess the early Christians, by the power of God within them, lived their lives as His sons. They were pioneers of the new humanity; they showed for all the world to see the fruits of the Spirit in human life. At times the opposition was almost overwhelming, as we can glimpse from St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter IV., verses 5 to 10, A.V.

— J.B. Phillips

## CALL TO WORSHIP | PSALM 34:3-7

Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

***and let us exalt His name together!***

I sought the LORD, and He answered me

***and delivered me from all my fears.***

Those who look to Him are radiant,

***and their faces shall never be ashamed.***

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him

***and saved him out of all his troubles.***

***The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.***

# A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

Words and Music: Martin Luther: Scottish Psalter 1635

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 power 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 powers  
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

## We Listen to His Word | 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

This is the Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God!***

## We Confess our Sins

***Our God and Father, we praise You that there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus! In Christ You have given us living water, freeing us from the slavery of sin, and springing up to eternal life; our cups run over with Your blessing! Yet, our gracious Father, we confess that we have returned to the well of sin again and again. Though it reaps no reward, and doesn't quench our thirst, we are deeply allured by its taste, though its sweetness turns to the deepest bitterness. Our God, nothing short of Your Divine help will save us from the presence of sin in our lives. Nothing but Your mercy and grace can remove the pains of guilt we feel so deeply. Be pleased, Lord, to separate us from sin and make us more like Jesus. By feeding on His Body and Blood by faith, may we taste and see that You are good. Grow us in grace that we may say, with Christ, that our food is to do the will of our Father in heaven.***

**SILENT CONFESSION** *Please pause for a moment of silent confession.*

## We Hear Words of Assurance and Pardon | PSALM 103:8

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ know that you're forgiven and be at peace.

***Thanks be to God!***



## ABIDE WITH ME

Henry Francis Lyte and Justin Smith

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head in, early youth didst smile;  
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,  
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,  
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.  
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like Thyself my, guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness  
Where is thy sting death?  
Where grave thy victory?  
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and  
point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and  
earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

## YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, and Rich Thompson

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!**

## We Ask for God's Help

## Trinity Vision Moment

Community Group Testimony

## We Confess our Faith | HEIDELBERG CATECHISM, QUESTION 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

***That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself, but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of His own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that He protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit His purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.***

## We Greet Others with Peace | PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you!**

*TrinityKids: During the Greeting of Peace, children 5 & 4 may be dismissed to walk to TrinityKids. They will be led by a teacher to return to worship with us before the Lord's Supper.*

## We Are Changed by God's Word | EZRA 9:1-15 & EZRA 10:10-12

Ezra 9:1-15

"After these things had been done, the officials approached me and said, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations, from the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. For they have taken some of their daughters to be wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands. And in this faithlessness the hand of the officials and chief men has been foremost." 3 As soon as I heard this, I tore my garment and my cloak and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled. Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the faithlessness of the returned exiles, gathered around me while I sat appalled until the evening sacrifice. And at the evening sacrifice I rose from my fasting, with my garment and my cloak torn, and fell upon my knees and spread out my hands to the Lord my God, saying: "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens. From the days of our fathers to this day we have been in great guilt. And for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as it is today. But now for a brief moment favor has been shown by the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant and to give us a secure hold within his holy place, that our God may brighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our slavery. For we are slaves. Yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, to grant us some reviving to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us protection in Judea and

Jerusalem. And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments, which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land that you are entering, to take possession of it, is a land impure with the impurity of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations that have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness. Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.' And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, seeing that you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserved and have given us such a remnant as this, shall we break your commandments again and intermarry with the peoples who practice these abominations? Would you not be angry with us until you consumed us, so that there should be no remnant, nor any to escape? O Lord, the God of Israel, you are just, for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold, we are before you in our guilt, for none can stand before you because of this."

Ezra 10:10-12

"And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have broken faith and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel. Now then make confession to the Lord, the God of your fathers and do his will. Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives." Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, "It is so; we must do as you have said."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **We Give Regularly, Joyfully and Sacrificially** | [GIVE.TRINITYOWASSO.COM](http://GIVE.TRINITYOWASSO.COM)

There are six ways to give at Trinity:

1. Online: [give.trinityowasso.com](http://give.trinityowasso.com)
2. Trinity Owasso App
3. Text “trinityowasso” to 77977
4. Offering basket during worship
5. Mail your gift to the church office
6. Stock or cash gifts through a foundation like the PCA Foundation, [pcafoundation.com](http://pcafoundation.com)

(Please take a moment to fill out the Trinity Connect Card & place it in the offering basket when it is passed down the aisle. If you miss the offering basket, please leave your Trinity Connect Card or tithe in a connect-card box in the lobby.)

## **We Celebrate Holy Communion**

The Lord be with you.

***And with your spirit.***

Lift up your hearts!

***We lift them up to the Lord!***

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

***It is right to give Him thanks and praise.***

It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name; evermore praising You, and singing:

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

Thomas O. Chisholm

Great is Thy faithfulness, oh God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

**Great is Thy faithfulness**

**Great is Thy faithfulness**

**Morning by morning, new mercies I see**

**All I have needed Thy hand hath provided**

**Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me**

Summer and winter and  
Springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today  
And bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

## **God sends us out with His good Word** | ZEPHANIAH 3:17

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

## **We go into the world for His glory**

Let us go forth to serve our neighbors and the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

***Thanks be to God! Amen!***

# Welcome to Trinity!

*We are so glad you're here!*

Connect with us: [tpcok.cc/connect](http://tpcok.cc/connect)

Learn more about how we connect kids to during worship time: [tpkok.cc/kidsandworship](http://tpkok.cc/kidsandworship)

## TRINITYKIDS | Babies - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

SUN. 9AM & Special Events

Sunday | Barnes Elementary

Contact - Text Mishelle: 918-991-9860

## TRINITY YOUTH | 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Sr. High

SUN. 9AM; WED 6:30PM

Sunday | Barnes Elementary

Wednesday | Trinity House

Contact - Text Nathan: 314-662-6488

See **GroupMe** for special events throughout the week.

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

SUN. 9AM | Classes Rotate Seasonally

Current Classes:

- **Westminster Larger Catechism** with Trinity Elders
- **Church History** with Pastor Blake & Fr. John Thorpe

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY** | Bible Studies, Events, & Meetups throughout the year.

Join Women's GroupMe!

For more information, text Caity at 918-812-0247



**MEN'S MINISTRY** | Bible Study & Events

WED. 6:15AM at Panera in Owasso

WED. 6:45 pm PM at 10517 N. Sheridan, Sperry OK

Contact - Jon Nadig: 719-576-8956

## WHERE WE MEET EACH WEEK

Barnes Elementary [7809 East 76<sup>th</sup> St N Owasso]

Sunday 9AM & 10AM

Trinity House: 9210 N Garnett, Owasso

- Houses our Staff Offices & Meeting Space
- Various Ministries Throughout the Week



Scan the QR code to learn more about our community groups and how to join.



## How to Respond to Today's Service?

### 1. SEEK STILLNESS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

**TODAY.** You may want to pray something like this:

#### *Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth:*

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads me to the life you promise. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Amen.

*Prayer of Belief:* Lord Jesus Christ, I confess that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dare imagine, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dare dream. Thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness and making me righteous before my Heavenly

Father. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer of Commitment:* Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

**2. READ SCRIPTURE.** Read the sermon passage again and reflect on what the Holy Spirit called to mind. How might you apply it with God's help?

**3. JOIN US AT A COMMUNITY GROUP or REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING EVENT.** We want you to be a part of us.

**4. FILL OUT A CONNECT CARD.** Let us know how to pray for you and get you the information you seek.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

[TRINITYOWASSO.COM](http://TRINITYOWASSO.COM) |   



**TRINITY**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trinity House Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm  
Phone: 918.516.2772

 **ACTS 29**  
churches planting churches

 **TGC** 

All copyright songs  
used by permission.

CCLI License #1112314