

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 10, 2021

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

Psalm 37:39

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 57 (p. 805 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge.

I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his purpose for me.

He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me; God sends his love and his faithfulness.

I am in the midst of lions; I lie among ravenous beasts—men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

They spread a net for my feet—I was bowed down in distress.

They dug a pit in my path—but they have fallen into it themselves.

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.

Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

let your glory be over all the earth.

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

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing *Alleluia! Amen!*
Loud praise to Christ our King; *Alleluia! Amen!*
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice. *Alleluia! Amen!*

Come, lift your hearts on high, *Alleluia! Amen!*
Let praises fill the sky; *Alleluia! Amen!*
He is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend;
His love shall never end. *Alleluia! Amen!*

Praise yet our Christ again, *Alleluia! Amen!*
Life shall not end the strain; *Alleluia! Amen!*
On heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "*Alleluia! Amen!*"

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: We praise you, our God and King, because you are holy and good. Your unfailing love is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.

All: We acknowledge the vast difference between who we are as creatures and who you are as our Creator. We are shamefully aware of how we have sinned and fall short of your glory.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Enable us to receive and rest in the truth that we have been justified by faith and have peace with you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: All praise, honor, glory, and power be to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 66

Congregational Response

Hymn 6

O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord

O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord thy Maker, and all within me bless his holy name;
Bless thou the Lord, forget not all his mercies, his pard'ning grace and saving love proclaim.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.

Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion, most slow to anger, plenteous in love;
Rich is his grace to all that humbly seek him, boundless and endless as the heav'ns above.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.

His love is like a father's to his children, tender and kind to all who fear his name;
For well he knows our weakness and our frailty, he knows that we are dust, he knows our frame.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.

We fade and die like flow'rs that grow in beauty, like tender grass that soon will disappear;
But evermore the love of God is changeless, still shown to those who look to him in fear.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.

High in the heav'ns his throne is fixed forever, his kingdom rules o'er all from pole to pole;
Bless ye the Lord through all his wide dominion, bless his most holy name, O thou my soul.

Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 4. *What is God?*

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Q. 5. *Are there more Gods than one?*

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q. 6. *How many Persons are there in the Godhead?*

A. There are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

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.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

1 Thessalonians 2:17 - 3:5

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month)

Hymn 684

My Times Are in Thy Hand

My times are in thy hand;
My God, I wish them there;
My life, my friends, my soul, I leave
Entirely to thy care.

My times are in thy hand,
Whatever they may be;
Pleasing or painful, dark or bright,
As best may seem to thee.

My times are in thy hand;
Why should I doubt or fear?
My Father's hand will never cause
His child a needless tear.

My times are in thy hand,
Jesus the Crucified;
Those hands my cruel sins had pierced
Are now my guard and guide. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Clayton Willis

“Shaped for Heaven”
1 Thessalonians 2:17 - 3:5

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 363

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning:
Thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation endure thro’ tribulation:
Thy name be ever prais’d! O Lord, make us free! 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.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The pastoral heart of the Apostle Paul is clearly seen in 1 Thessalonians. In this epistle we can sense his longing to be with the Christians he was torn away from so suddenly when he had to leave Thessalonica. As we read in 2:17, though he could not be with them in person, he was with them “in heart”; his thoughts were with them because of his love for them and because of the afflictions they were suffering for their faith.

When troubles and afflictions come into our lives, our first thought is often that God has abandoned us because we mistakenly think that God is supposed to shield us from such hardships. Paul wanted to assure them that afflictions and persecutions are part of God's sanctifying work in His children. Paul reminds us in 3:3-4 that those who belong to Christ are going to suffer affliction. John Lillie, in his commentary on 1 Thessalonians, writes:

It is enough for us to know that such [affliction] is the will of God; that this fiery trial happens not without His knowledge, and consent, and purpose, and control; that He sits by the mouth of the furnace into which His people are cast; and that both the fervor and the duration of the process are regulated by His infinite, fatherly wisdom and love. Gladly, we may be sure, would He spare us...were it not for the necessities of the case, arising from the prevalence of sin and death in the world, and the presence of both in the Church itself.

Our persecutions and afflictions are not without purpose—they are means by which God weans us from this world, shapes us in Christian character, and equips us for serving and ministering to others who are struggling.

1. Read James 1:2-4. Why does James encourage us to count the trials we encounter with “all joy”? What does James tell us in v. 4 is the result of these trials?
2. In 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4 we learn that while he was with them, Paul taught the believers that they would be persecuted for their faith, that they were (as are we) appointed or destined to affliction in this life. If God appoints trials to us, then it is necessary (1 Peter 1:6) for our good. Read Matthew 5:10-12. What is the heavenly result of our persecution?
3. The results of our afflictions are not only heavenly, but we receive benefits in this life. Read Romans 5:3-5 and list the present benefits our suffering produces.
4. In light of these things, how should we look at the various afflictions and suffering we experience for our faith in Jesus? What are some ways you can look at your own suffering differently today?
5. How have the afflictions you have endured equipped you to minister to other believers? What are some practical ways you can apply your experience to encourage and support your brothers and sisters in Christ as they go through trials?

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

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Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD. Ps. 95:1

1. Come, Chris - tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 on heav - en's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

Monday, January 11

Scripture: Genesis 24:52 - 26:16; Matthew 8:18-34; Psalm 10:1-15; Proverbs 3:7-8

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 4

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

Tuesday, January 12

Scripture: Genesis 26:17 - 27:46; Matthew 9:1-17; Psalm 10:16-18; Proverbs 3:9-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 93

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

Wednesday, January 13

Scripture: Genesis 28:1 - 29:35; Matthew 9:18-38; Psalm 11:1-7; Proverbs 3:11-12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 94

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

Thursday, January 14

Scripture: Genesis 30:1 - 31:16; Matthew 10:1-23; Psalm 12:1-8; Proverbs 3:13-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 95

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

Friday, January 15

Scripture: Genesis 31:17 - 32:12; Matthew 10:24 - 11:6; Psalm 13:1-6; Prov. 3:16-18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 96

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, January 16

Scripture: Genesis 32:13 - 34:31; Matthew 11:7-30; Psalm 14:1-7; Proverbs 3:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 97

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

Sunday, January 17

Scripture: Genesis 35:1 - 36:43; Matthew 12:1-21; Psalm 15:1-5; Proverbs 3:21-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 98

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.*

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