

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 17, 2019

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

**Acts 2:38-39**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

## Greeting and Blessing\*

## Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 1 (p. 785)

## Hymn of Preparation\*

Hymn 165

### *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
And publish abroad his wonderful Name;  
The Name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;  
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;  
And still he is nigh—his presence we have.  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right,  
All glory and pow’r, and wisdom and might,  
All honor and blessing, with angels above,  
And thanks never ceasing for infinite love. Amen.

\* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

## Congregational Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we come before you with guilt and shame as we consider how we have offended you by our sinful actions, our hurtful words, and our disgraceful thoughts.

**All:** You know us even better than we know ourselves; none of our sins are hidden from your sight. It grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

**Leader:** We do earnestly repent and are sincerely sorry for our sins. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant 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:** We ask all this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

## Private Confession of Our Sins

### Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Timothy 1:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

### First Reading\*

Genesis 28:10-22

### Congregational Response

Hymn 716

#### *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

Sing to the Lord of harvest,  
sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices  
your alleluias raise!

By him the rolling seasons  
in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest  
a song of happy love.

By him the clouds drop fatness,  
the deserts bloom and spring,  
the hills leap up in gladness,  
the valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with his fullness  
all things with large increase;  
he crowns the year with goodness,  
with plenty, and with peace.

Heap on his sacred altar  
the gifts his goodness gave,  
the golden sheaves of harvest,  
the souls he died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before him  
when at his feet you fall,  
and with your lives adore him  
who gave his life for all.

To God the gracious Father,  
who made us “very good,”  
to Christ, who, when we wandered,  
restored us with his blood,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
who doth upon us pour  
his blessed dews and sunshine,  
be praise forevermore. Amen.

### Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 88.** *What are the outward means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?*

**A.** The outward and ordinary means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all of which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

**Q. 89.** *How is the Word made effectual to salvation?*

**A.** The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith to salvation.

**Q. 90.** *How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?*

**A.** That the Word may become effectual to salvation we must attend to it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love; lay it up in our hearts; and practice it in our lives.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

#### Tithes and Offerings

#### 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.

## THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading\*

Luke 24:13-35

Reception of New Members

Congregational Response (Psalm 138)

Hymn 88

Sacrament of Baptism

### *With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring*

With grateful heart my thanks I bring,  
before the great thy praise I sing;  
I worship in thy holy place  
and praise thee for thy truth and grace;  
for truth and grace together shine  
in thy most holy word divine.

I cried to thee and thou didst save,  
thy word of grace new courage gave;  
the kings of earth shall thank thee, Lord,  
for they have heard thy wondrous word;  
yea, they shall come with songs of praise,  
for great and glorious are thy ways.

O Lord, enthroned in glory bright,  
thou reignest in the heav'nly height;  
the proud in vain thy favor seek,  
but thou hast mercy for the meek;  
through trouble though my pathway be,  
thou wilt revive and strengthen me.

Thou wilt stretch forth thy mighty arm  
to save me when my foes alarm;  
the work thou hast for me begun  
shall by thy grace be fully done;  
forever mercy dwells with thee;  
O Lord, my Maker, think on me. Amen.

### *Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep*

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,  
All thy lambs in safety keep;  
Nothing can thy power withstand;  
None can pluck them from thy hand.

May they praise thee every day,  
Gladly all thy will obey,  
Like thy blessed ones above,  
Happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,  
Teach thy lambs thy voice to hear;  
Suffer not their steps to stray  
From the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest may they go,  
Walking in thy steps below,  
Then, before thy Father's throne,  
Savior, claim them for thine own. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer** (based on Psalm 1)

**Sermon**

“Heaven Opened”  
John 1:45-51

Pastor Ben Muresan



## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In describing the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, Saint Augustine said that “the new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed.” Augustine recognized that the promises God made in the Old Testament were fulfilled in the New Testament, and so both need to be understood and read in light of each other. Iain Duguid explains:

The Old Testament is not simply the record of what God was doing with a motley crew of religious misfits in a land in the Middle East, far less a catalogue of stories about a series of religiously inspiring heroes. It is the good news of the gospel that we have been called to declare to the nations, beginning in Jerusalem and continuing until the message has been heard to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). At its height, the Old Testament gives us a glimpse in advance of who Jesus is. It gives us the categories of prophet, priest, and king that enable us to comprehend the ministry of the Messiah. In its many depths, the Old Testament shows us repeatedly why no one and nothing other than God himself in human form could possibly be the answer to our deepest need and provide us deliverance from our sins.

1. For review, read John 1:43-44. How do these verses reveal God's eternal decree and effectual calling? What did it look like for Philip to follow Jesus? What does it look like for Christians today?
2. Read John 1:45 and Luke 24:13-35. How does Jesus' explanation to the men on the road to Emmaus help us properly interpret the Old Testament?
3. Choose a book of the Old Testament that you are familiar with and think about the ways in which Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about the Messiah in that book.
4. Why did Nathanael respond as he did in John 1:46?
5. What do verses 47-48 reveal about Jesus' ability to discern the heart? Can you think of other passages, such as Mark 2:8, that reveal Jesus' discernment and knowledge?
6. How does Jesus' declaration to Nathanael in John 1:51 connect with Jacob's dream in Genesis 28?
7. In preparation for next week, read John 1 in one sitting and write down all the names and titles used for Jesus. Do you know the significance of each? Why do you think Jesus has so many names and titles in the Bible?