

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 3, 2019

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**1 Peter 2:9**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

#### Greeting and Blessing\*

#### Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 138 (p. 835)

#### Hymn of Preparation\*

Hymn 32

#### *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been thou for ever wilt 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!

## Congregational Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Our strong and faithful God, we come before you acknowledging that you are light and that in you there is no darkness at all.

**All:** We confess that we have walked in darkness rather than living according to what you have revealed to us in your Word. We have sinned against you and our neighbors, and we are not worthy to be called your children.

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, we pray, and grant us forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ. Cause us to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**All:** All glory be to you, O God, through 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

Acts 10:42-43

And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

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 dew and sunshine,  
be praise forevermore. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 82.** *Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?*

**A.** No mere man, since the fall, is able, in this life, to keep perfectly the commandments of God, but does break them daily in thought, word, and deed.

**Q. 83.** *Are all transgressions of the law equally wicked?*

**A.** Some sins in themselves, and by reason of aggravating circumstances, are more wicked in the sight of God than others.

**Q. 84.** *What does every sin deserve?*

**A.** Every sin deserves God’s wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

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\*

Matthew 16

Congregational Response (Psalm 138)

Hymn 88

### *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.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Acts 5:41-42)

Sermon

“Following Jesus”  
John 1:35-42

Pastor Ben Muresan

## GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 660

### *O God Beyond All Praising*

O God beyond all praising,  
we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing  
that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder  
at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number  
and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you  
and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you,  
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior,  
accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favor  
may serve you as our King;  
and whether our tomorrows  
be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows  
and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty  
and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty  
our sacrifice of praise. Amen.



## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Have you ever explained the gospel to an unbeliever? How did the conversation begin? There are many examples in the New Testament in which Jesus' followers shared the gospel with others. Sometimes it was on a grand scale, such as when Peter preached on the day of Pentecost and 3,000 people put their faith in Christ and were baptized. Sometimes it was on an individual basis, such as when Philip explained to the Ethiopian eunuch about how Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, and the eunuch believed and was baptized. In every instance, the seed of the Word was cast, and God gave the increase according to his will. Kim Riddlebarger explains:

While the Reformed believe that preaching is the primary means of evangelism, there is no doubt that "witness bearing" by each of Jesus' disciples to their friends, family, and acquaintances is a very effective means of evangelism. Jesus calls all of us to do this wherever and whenever possible. If you are a disciple of Jesus, you are to be a "witness bearer."

1. For review, read John 1:29-34. What was the significance of the events that took place during Jesus' baptism? Is every believer baptized with the Holy Spirit?
2. Think about your experiences in talking to non-Christian family members and friends about your faith. Was it difficult? What anxieties or fears hinder your Christian witness?
3. What is significant about John the Baptist's declaration in v. 36? What did he believe was the most important thing for his disciples to know about Jesus?
4. What do you make of the question Jesus asked in v. 38? What did Jesus intend to accomplish by asking this question?
5. Why is it important to both tell others about Jesus and also to invite them to church according to Westminster Confession of Faith chapter 25, paragraphs 1-3.
6. What does Jesus' declaration in v. 42 reveal about what he intended to accomplish in Peter's life?
7. Read John 1:43-51. What do you think Philip meant in v. 45? What are some things you learn about Jesus from these verses?