

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 3, 2019

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!  
Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!  
**Psalm 97:1, 12**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

## Greeting and Blessing\*

## Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 72:1-19 (p. 810)

## Hymn of Preparation\*

“God, My King, Thy Might Confessing” Hymn 5

## Congregational Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Almighty God, our Father in heaven, you are rich in mercy to all who call upon you. Hear us as we come humbly into your presence, confessing our sins and transgressions.

**All:** We plead for your mercy and forgiveness because we have broken your holy laws by our sinful words and deeds, and by the ungodly affections of our hearts.

**Leader:** Have mercy on us and forgive us our many sins and iniquities! See us in Christ, our Savior and Mediator, and forgive us for his sake. Hear his prayers of intercession on our behalf and restore us to a right relationship with you.

**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

Titus 3:4–7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

\* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

# ADORATION AND PRAISE

## First Reading\*

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

## Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

“Peace, Perfect Peace” Hymn 702

## Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 52

### Q. 127. *What does the sixth petition mean?*

**A.** “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” means:

We are so weak that we cannot stand on our own for a moment, and our sworn enemies—the devil, the world, and our own flesh—never stop attacking us.

And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not be defeated in this spiritual fight, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

### Q. 128. *How do you conclude this prayer?*

**A.** “For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.”

This means we have made all these petitions of you because, as our all-powerful king, you are both willing and able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.

### Q. 129. *What does the little word “Amen” express?*

**A.** “Amen” means:

This shall truly and surely be!

For it is much more certain that God has heard my prayer than I feel in my heart that I desire such things from him.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

## Tithes and Offerings

## Doxology\*

Hymn 732

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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\***

John 15:1-17

**Congregational Response** (Psalm 72:8-14; 17-19) “Christ Shall Have Dominion” Hymn 439

**Pastoral Prayer** (based on Ephesians 4:32)

**Sermon**

“Rejoice in the Lord Always”  
Philippians 4:4

Pastor Ben Muresan

## GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

**Hymn of Thanksgiving\***

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King” Hymn 310

**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

Paul's command that we rejoice in the Lord is firmly rooted in the Old Testament. Habakkuk wrote about rejoicing even in the midst of terrible circumstances:

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.  
GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's;  
he makes me tread on my high places. (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Habakkuk looked past his circumstances to the God who is gracious and kind, who bears us up, and who works all things for his glory and our good. As Christians living in the New Covenant and knowing that Christ died, that he was raised, and that he is now enthroned in glory, we have every reason to rejoice in him.

1. For review, read Philippians 4:2-3. Why did Paul want these two women to reconcile? Why is it significant that he added the phrase “whose names are written in the book of life”?
2. What does it mean to rejoice according to Psalm 5:11; 13:5; 31:7; 35:9; 97:1; 118:24; Isaiah 61:10; Zechariah 9:9; Luke 10:20; Acts 5:41; Revelation 19:7? What reasons do these verses give us to rejoice?
3. Read and discuss Tim Keller's quote inside the bulletin cover. Do you agree with his explanation? Why or why not?
4. Why is it important to know Paul's situation while he was writing this letter to the Philippian Christians? How does it affect how you read Philippians 4:4 and apply it to your life?
5. How might our rejoicing in the Lord be a means of witness and evangelism? What does true joy in the Lord look like in our daily lives?
6. In preparation for next week, read Philippians 4:5-7. What do you think “reasonableness” means and why is it an important characteristic for Christians? What do you think is the connection between the phrase “The Lord is at hand” and verses 6-7?

