

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 26, 2020

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness,  
and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

**Psalm 7:17**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 26 (p. 792 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

OF DAVID.

Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have led a blameless life;

**I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.**

Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;

**for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.**

I do not sit with deceitful men, nor do I consort with hypocrites;

**I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked.**

I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, O LORD,  
proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

**I love the house where you live, O LORD, the place where your glory dwells.**

Do not take away my soul along with sinners, my life with bloodthirsty men,

**in whose hands are wicked schemes, whose right hands are full of bribes.**

But I lead a blameless life; redeem me and be merciful to me.

**My feet stand on level ground; in the great assembly I will praise the LORD.**

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 7

### *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

From all that dwell below the skies  
Let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
Through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song;  
To every land the strains belong.  
In cheerful sound all voices raise  
And fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord;  
Eternal truth attends your Word.  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore  
Till suns shall rise and set no more. Amen.

## Congregational Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Almighty and most merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess that we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the sinful intentions and desires of our own hearts.

**All:** We have not obeyed your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray. Our sins and failures weigh heavy on our hearts, and we feel how our fellowship with you has suffered. Free us from both the penalty and power of sin, so that it will not be master over us, and strengthen us to live in holiness and righteousness to the glory of your holy name.

**All:** Thank you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Private Confession of Our Sins

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

### First Reading

Psalm 40

### Congregational Response

Hymn 648

### *My Jesus, I Love Thee*

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
For thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death;  
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;  
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

*The Nicene Creed* (p. 846)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## 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

John 6:22-71

### Congregational Response

Hymn 465

#### *Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord*

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

*Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the Refuge, the mighty cross.

*Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, what can avail to wash it away?  
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide; whiter than snow you may be today.

*Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin. Amen.*

**Pastoral Prayer** (based on Hebrews 4:14-16)

**Sermon**

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Obedient Son”  
John 6:22-71

Jesus teaches us that in the Covenant of Redemption:

1. The Father gives a specific group of people to the Son (v. 37; Ephesians 1:4-5).
2. The Son comes down from heaven to do the Father’s will (v. 38; Psalm 40; John 4:34).
3. The Father’s will is for the Son to lose none of them but raise them on the Last Day (v. 39).
4. These people come to the Son by looking on him and believing (v. 40).
5. No one can come to the Son unless the Father who sent the Son draws him (v. 44, 63).

The Covenant of Redemption reveals the perfect love and unity in the Godhead and how God chose us to experience this love.

The Covenant of Redemption helps us understand why some come to faith and others remain hard-hearted in unbelief (Luke 22:31).

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

**Hymn of Thanksgiving**

Hymn 521

### ***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less***

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand. Amen.*

**Benediction**

**Congregational Benediction Response\***

“May the Peace of God”

May the peace of God, our heav’nly Father, and the grace of Christ, the risen Son,  
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit keep our hearts and minds within his love.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign; from the depths of earth to the heights of heaven  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

May this peace which passes understanding, and this grace which makes us what we are,  
And this fellowship of his communion, make us one in spirit and in heart.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign; from the depths of earth to the heights of heaven  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—Christ eternal, the King of kings. Amen.*

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

We learn in the Bible the reason for the cross was that God provided the atonement our sins required. The Old Testament sacrifices were unable to take away sins (Hebrews 10:11); they merely pointed forward to the atonement the Lord Jesus would provide to propitiate all the sins of all his elect (Hebrews 9:11-15). Some people struggle with this understanding of the cross. The question they ask is: If God is love, why would the Father punish his Son in this way? Some have even described substitutionary atonement as “cosmic child abuse” because it seems to teach that a vengeful Father unjustly punished his guiltless Son.

This is why it is so helpful and necessary to understand Christ's atoning work for his people as fulfilling the Covenant of Redemption. Michael Horton provides a helpful definition of this covenant: “The Covenant of Redemption... is an eternal pact between the Persons of the Trinity. The Father elects a people in the Son as their mediator to be brought to saving faith through the Spirit.” This covenant reminds us of the big picture of our salvation as we see how our redemption was planned, accomplished, and continues to be applied to us by our Triune God for his glory. The Covenant of Redemption had from its eternal inception the plan to redeem the elect through the death of the incarnate Son. For Jesus, this covenant was a covenant of works in which he fulfilled all the requirements in order to gain a people. Jesus said, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me” (John 6:38). Our salvation is therefore secure, not because of our obedience, but because we are united to the truly obedient Son, “who *for the joy* that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

1. For review, read John 6:22-71, noting how often Jesus identifies himself as the Bread of Life who came down from heaven (verses 33, 35, 48, 51, 58). Why is it significant that he uses the phrase “I Am” when speaking of himself as the Bread of Life?
2. What “works” are the people referring to in verse 28? What “work” is Jesus referring to as he answers in verse 29? How does Romans 4:3-5 explain the importance of faith in salvation? What role do our works have in salvation according to Ephesians 2:4-10?
3. Review the five aspects of the Covenant of Redemption that Jesus teaches in John 6:37-46 (which are noted in the sermon outline). How does understanding this covenant help you better understand the purpose of our existence as human beings? How does it affect your assurance of salvation? What other aspects of your faith might be strengthened by a deeper understanding of this covenant?
4. According to verse 66, why did many of the people that had been following Jesus turn and leave him? What do you learn from Peter's response in verses 68-69 and what John teaches in 1 John 2:19?
5. In preparation for next Sunday, read John 7:1-24. What do you think is the significance of Jesus saying these things during the Feast of Booths (Deuteronomy 16:13-15; Leviticus 23:39-43)? What “time” do you think Jesus is referring to in verse 6?

# 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, April 27**

Scripture: Judges 7:1 - 8:17; Luke 23:13-43; Psalm 97:1 - 98:9; Proverbs 14:7-8  
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 33  
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

## **Tuesday, April 28**

Scripture: Judges 8:18 - 9:21; Luke 23:44 - 24:12; Psalm 99:1-9; Proverbs 14:9-10  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 85  
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

## **Wednesday, April 29**

Scripture: Judges 9:22 - 10:18; Luke 24:13-53; Psalm 100:1-5; Proverbs 14:11-12  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 86  
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.  
The churches in Thailand and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, April 30**

Scripture: Judges 11:1 - 12:15; John 1:1-28; Psalm 101:1-8; Proverbs 14:13-14  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 87  
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

## **Friday, May 1**

Scripture: Judges 13:1 - 14:20; John 1:29-51; Psalm 102:1-28; Proverbs 14:15-16  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 88  
Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

## **Saturday, May 2**

Scripture: Judges 15:1 - 16:31; John 2:1-25; Psalm 103:1-22; Proverbs 14:17-19  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 89  
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

## **Sunday, May 3**

Scripture: Judges 17:1 - 18:31; John 3:1-21; Psalm 104:1-24; Proverbs 14:20-21  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 90  
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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