

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 4, 2019

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 16 (p. 788)

Hymn of Preparation*

“God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory” Hymn 122

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God and Heavenly Father, we pray to you in sorrow and frustration as we consider how we have sinned against you and others.

All: We have not loved kindness and delighted our souls in doing good to others. We have not walked humbly and wisely before you, but rather we have walked in our own wisdom and followed the counsel of the world around us.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant us the daily increase of your Holy Spirit. Cause us to continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel.

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

Colossians 2:13-15

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

Congregational Response

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” Hymn 345

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 45. *What is the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment is: “You shall have no other gods before me.”

Q. 46. *What is required in the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Q. 47. *What is forbidden in the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment forbids the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving to any other of that worship and glory due to him alone.

Q. 48. *What are we especially taught by the words, “before me,” in the first commandment?*

A. These words, “before me,” in the first commandment teach us that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

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 22:15-46
Congregational Response (Psalm 16)	“To You, O Lord, I Fly” Hymn 692
Pastoral Prayer (based on Proverbs 3:5-6)	
Sermon	Pastor Ben Muresan
	“Priorities for the Future” Joshua 23

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*	“Amazing Grace” Hymn 460
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

Toward the end of his life, Joshua gathered the leaders of Israel around him in order to give them final exhortations about remaining faithful to the Lord. God had graciously fulfilled his covenant to Abraham by giving him numerous descendants and the land of Canaan. The nation of Israel, now inhabiting the Promised Land, was a living testimony to God’s faithfulness. Joshua said, “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed” (Joshua 23:14). It is instructive to note that though Joshua had been through many hardships in his life, his tone at the end was one of praise to God and ongoing confidence in his faith. While so many from his generation had fallen away from the Lord, Joshua persevered to the end by God’s grace. He had fought the good fight, he had run the race, and like the Apostle Paul would later do for Timothy, Joshua exhorted the future generation of believers to do the same.

1. For review, scan Joshua 22 to remind yourself about what the chapter teaches. What caused the misunderstanding between the tribes of Israel according to verses 11-12? How was it resolved?
2. Read Joshua 23:1-5. Why do you think Joshua felt the need to gather Israel’s leaders in order to remind them about God’s faithfulness and their covenant responsibilities? Why does Scripture remind believers so often to “remember”?
3. In v. 6, Joshua appealed to the Word of God as the standard of Israel’s covenant obedience. Read and discuss Westminster Confession of Faith 16.1-2. What do you learn from these paragraphs about the importance of knowing God’s Word?
4. What was the danger of Israel’s “mixing with the nations” in v. 7? How does this apply to the Christian life according to John 17:14-19 and Romans 12:1-2? According to Judges 2:6-15, what happened to Israel after Joshua died?
5. According to Joshua 23:11-13, how was Israel to display its love for God? How does this connect with John 14:15?
6. What covenant curses were threatened in Joshua 23:14-16? Did these come to pass in Israel’s history?
7. In preparation for next week, read Joshua 24. What do you make of v. 19? Why did Joshua call Israel to obedience if the people were unable to live that way?

