

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 11, 2019

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me."

**John 14:6**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

## Greeting and Blessing\*

## Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 139 (p. 836)

## Hymn of Preparation\*

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Hymn 164

## Congregational Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Our Father, we acknowledge and believe that you are holy, holy, holy and that the whole earth is full of your glory. As we examine ourselves in the light of your law, we are reminded of how we fall short of your glory.

**All:** We have offended you with our thoughts, words, and deeds. Rather than seeking to conform ourselves to your law, we have all too eagerly conformed to the pattern of this passing evil age.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray. Apart from Christ there is nothing in us that gives us reason for hope, yet in him we have forgiveness. Grant us to believe your assurance of pardon and to live godly, righteous, and devout lives as we await our Savior's return.

**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

Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

# ADORATION AND PRAISE

## First Reading\*

Exodus 23:20-33

## Congregational Response

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" Hymn 345

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

### Q. 49. *Which is the second commandment?*

**A.** The second commandment is "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

### Q. 50. *What is required in the second commandment?*

**A.** The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his Word.

### Q. 51. *What is forbidden in the second commandment?*

**A.** The second commandment forbids the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his Word.

### Q. 52. *What are the reasons attached to the second commandment?*

**A.** The reasons attached to the second commandment are: God's sovereignty over us, his ownership in us, and the zeal he has for his own worship.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

## Tithes and Offerings

## Doxology\*

Hymn 731

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\***

Joshua 24

**Congregational Response** (Psalm 16)

“To You, O Lord, I Fly” Hymn 692

**Pastoral Prayer** (based on Psalm 116:8-9)

**Sermon**

“The Most Important Decision You Will Ever Make”  
Joshua 24

Pastor Ben Muresan

## GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

**Hymn of Thanksgiving\***

“A Christian Home” Hymn 719

**Benediction\***

**Congregational Benediction Response\***

(Sung to TRINITY)

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.  
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore. Amen.

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In his final speech to the nation of Israel, Joshua called the people to renew their covenant commitment to the Lord. Joshua was a part of the first generation of Israelites who came out of Egypt, and he saw the unfaithfulness of that generation as they grumbled against the Lord and turned away from him. As Joshua addressed the second generation who now inhabited the Promised Land, he reminded them of God's grace and the demands God has of his people—namely to love him and worship him alone. God requires whole-hearted commitment from his people. When Jesus was asked about the commandments, he replied that the greatest is “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment” (Matthew 22:37-38). Our desire as disciples of Christ should never be to see how little we can give to the Lord but to constantly strive to give him our all, promptly and sincerely.

1. For review, scan Joshua 23 to remind yourself about the contents of the chapter. What was so dangerous about Israel's “mixing” with the nations around them? How does this apply to us as Christians?
2. Why does Joshua begin his speech in chapter 24 by reminding Israel of God's grace before reminding them about what God requires? Where else do we find this pattern in Scripture of indicatives followed by imperatives?
3. What part of Joshua 24:2-5 indicates that God's call to Abraham was gracious? Read and discuss Westminster Confession of Faith 10.1-2. Can we resist God's effectual call?
4. How did God preserve his people according to Joshua 24:6-10? How does he continue to preserve his people today?
5. How did God graciously sustain his people according to Joshua 24:11-13? How does he continue to sustain us according to Westminster Larger Catechism Q/A 193?
6. What kind of commitment does God require according to Joshua 24:14-15? How did Jesus emphasize this kind of commitment in John 14:5-7?
7. What caution does Joshua give the people in 24:16-21? Why should we “count the cost” of discipleship according to Luke 14:25-33?
8. Why is it significant that Joseph asked that his bones be buried in the Promised Land (Genesis 50:24-26)? What does this reveal about his faith, and what does Joshua 24:32 reveal?

