

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

Today we are introduced to the title character of the book we have been working through for the last several weeks.

Ezra is a gifted and accomplished man. The thing about Ezra that makes him worthy of our consideration is the fact that the Bible says the hand of God was upon him. Ezra was a student and teacher of the Word of God.

Ezra must have been a confident leader not because he was great, gifted, or had a remarkable pedigree, but because the LORD was with him.

Humble leadership like Ezra's is always timely and fruitful.

Warmly,

Steve

Sunday Worship Services: 9 AM and 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 9 AM

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PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

The Third Sunday in Lent

In the Christian year, we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a time to ask God to help us confront our own mortality and sinfulness, to ask Him to show us our need for grace, to grow in repentance, and to reflect on the amazing truth of the Church's participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent—the period between Ash Wednesday and the Saturday before Easter—lasts 40 days (not including Sundays), reminiscent of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness.

THE GOOD HAND OF HIS GOD WAS ON HIM

"It is only the gracious hand of God that enables a man or a woman to fulfill his or her calling in ministry. It is the hand of God that gives courage for spiritual leadership, humility for corporate repentance, and wisdom for teaching God's Word. Praise God for the hand of guidance that has brought you to your present place of service, for the hand of providence that will supply all your needs, for the hand of discipline that will train you in righteousness, and for the hand of comfort that will sustain you through trials. The hand of God is on you for blessing."

Philip Graham Ryken

"Ezra 7:10 speaks of a ministry that is focused in its objective ("set his heart") and intense in its labor ("to study"). It is both anchored and vigorous."

Dale Ralph Davis

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 98:1-3a

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for He has done marvelous things!

**His right hand and His holy arm
have worked salvation for Him.**

The LORD has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.**

Invocation

SONG OF ADORATION

PRAISE TO THE LORD THE ALMIGHTY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth;
shelters thee under His wings,
yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy entreaties have been,
granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord! Who doth prosper
thy work and defend thee;
surely His goodness and mercy
here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
Let the "Amen" sound from His people again;
gladly for, aye, we adore Him.

*"You will delight yourself in the
Almighty." -Job 22:26*

Text: Joachim Neander (1680),
trans. Catherine Winkworth (1863)
Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN (1665)
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Welcome

*Visitors, we are glad you are here. Following the service, please join
Pastor Steve Shelby for coffee in the Gallery.*

Presentation of New Members

Derek and Charlotte Gage (9:00 AM)
George Wolfe (10:30 AM)

DECLARING THE FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of the teachings of the apostles of Jesus Christ as they are recorded in the New Testament. This creed originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century. The Apostles' Creed is recognized to contain the essential beliefs of Christianity by all Protestant, Roman Catholic, & Eastern Orthodox churches.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

REFLECTING ON THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Heidelberg Catechism,
Q&A 37 (1563)*

¹Isa. 53; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18;

²Rom. 3:25; Heb. 10:14;

1 John 2:2; 4:10;

³Rom. 8:1-4; Gal. 3:13;

⁴John 3:16; Rom. 3:24-26

Christian, what do you understand by the word “suffered”?

That during His whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race.¹ This He did in order that, by His suffering as the only atoning sacrifice,² He might deliver us, body and soul, from eternal condemnation,³ and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and eternal life.⁴

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RESTORATION & RENEWAL

Pray for God to give His Church the gift of Faith.

Our "Prayer for Restoration and Renewal" comes each week from Matthew Henry's [Method for Prayer](#), (www.matthewhenry.org).

OFFERING

If you miss today's offering and wish to give, or if you would like to submit your tear-off, the elders at the front of the sanctuary who are available for prayer following the service will be glad to receive them.

The offering isn't just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper—God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as "living sacrifices" to God (Rom. 12:1).

SONG OF PRAISE

WE WILL SAY IN THAT DAY

"You will say in that day: 'I will give thanks to you, O LORD.'" -Isaiah 12:1

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The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "You will see there a high-way from God's own hand that will We will call back our ar-mies, 'Re-turn from war!' And we'll You will see there a ban-quet for sin-ners spread where we'll When the rem-nant re-turn to the pro-mised land, when the lead back the lost to the pro-mised land, and the voice of the Sa-vior will make in-to plow-shares our use-less swords, ve-ry soon to for-get what they sit with the Lord at the ta-ble's head, and the Shep-herd Him-self is our high-way of God brings us home to Him, we'll be wel-come with love by our call us friends, say-ing, 'Join in the song of the Lord!' once were for, when we join in the song of the Lord. wine and bread, and we'll join in the song of the Lord, Sa-vior Friend and we'll join in the song of the Lord. We will say in that day, 'To the Lord, give thanks!' We will not be a-fraid, for He comes to save. We will shout, we will call, 'Ev-ry tribe and race: Come and join in the song of the Lord!'"

3
6
9
12
15

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30 am)

During the 10:30 AM service, children (pre-K to second grade) are dismissed for Children's Worship.

GOD THE SON RENEWS US THROUGH HIS WORD & SACRAMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezra 7:1-10

¹Now after this, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah, ²son of Shallum, son of Zadok, son of Ahitub, ³son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of Meraioth, ⁴son of Zerahiah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki, ⁵son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the chief priest— ⁶this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the LORD, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him. ⁷And there went up also to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king, some of the people of Israel, and some of the priests and Levites, the singers and gatekeepers, and the temple servants. ⁸And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. ⁹For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

SERMON

A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at wepc.org/sermons.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus. They did as He had directed them, and prepared the Passover. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

from Matthew 26:17-29

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, You are full of grace and truth, but we have not understood Your hand in our lives. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns instead of submitting to Your Word. We have sought our own glory instead of obeying Your Law. We have not waited to find Your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of others around us. We have not acknowledged Your favor. Father, forgive us for our sins against You. Lord Jesus, lead us to live in light of Your coming. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that Your good hand might be upon us. Amen.

Confession & Encouragement

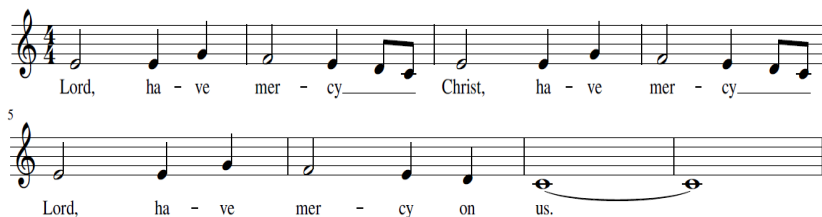
Often we find that our hearts worship something other than God. In confessing our sins, the Holy Spirit probes our hearts and minds and graciously shows us what we mistakenly believe will give us life. Jesus is good to lead us from sorrow over our sin to the sweetness of His grace.

Silent Confession of Sin

LORD, HAVE MERCY

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner." -Luke 18:13

Ancient Greek hymn, 4th century; arr. Trenton Durham, 2019



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

II Corinthians 5:21

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

First Communion

George Wolfe (10:30 AM)

George recently met with the Elders, who heard his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. We invite the Wolfe family to receive communion first.

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us.

Wine is in the outer ring of the communion tray, grape juice is in the inner rings. All bread is gluten-free.

Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family.

If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, raise your hand and we will come to you at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper.

Elders & Deacons are glad to pray for your children who have not yet become communing members. If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please mark today's tear-off or contact the WEPC office.

SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

BY HIS WOUNDS

"By his wounds you have been healed." -1 Peter 2:24

Text: Isaac Wardell, ©2013 Bifrost Arts; Used by Permission. CCLI #708363

1
By _____ His wounds _____ His wounds _____ will we be healed.

2
And for our trans - gres - sions, His pas - sion, has made us well.

3
Let us come a - gain and feed on Him, our Lord E - man - u el!

The musical score is written on three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff concludes the phrase with a final cadence. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate syllable placement.

JESUS CAST A LOOK ON ME

Jesus, cast a look on me,
Give me sweet simplicity;
Make me poor and keep me low,
Seeking only Thee to know.

All that feeds my busy pride,
Cast it evermore aside;
Bid my will to Thine submit,
Lay me humbly at Thy feet.

Make me like a little child,
Of my strength and wisdom spoiled;
Seeking only in Thy light,
Walking only in Thy might.

Leaning on Thy loving breast,
While a weary soul can rest;
Feeling well the peace of God,
Flowing from His precious blood.

In this posture let me live,
And hosannas daily give;
In this temper let me die,
And hosannas ever cry!

"Jesus looked at him and loved him." -Mark 10:21

Text: John Berridge (1785)
Tune: Matthew Perryman Jones
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*"I live by faith in the Son of
God, who loved me and gave
Himself for me." -Galatians 2:20*

Text: Louisa M. R. Stead (1882);

Tune: TRUST IN JESUS,

William J. Kirkpatrick (1882)

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'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
And to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord." ...

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O, for grace to trust Him more!*

O, how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
And in simple faith to plunge me
'neath the healing, cleansing flood!...

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace...

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end...

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low Praise Him a - bove ye heavn - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."
– Psalm 150:6

Text: Thomas Ken (1709)
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH
(Bourgeois, 1551)

What does "doxology" mean?

It's derived from two Greek words meaning "glory" and "word." A doxology, then, is a spoken word or song that ascribes glory to God. Today's doxology calls all of creation to praise God as the source of all blessing and acknowledges His Trinitarian (three-in-one) nature.

Benediction

After the service, the Elders are available at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you or for you, and to answer questions about the sermon or West End Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Director of Neighborhood Outreach, Changjwok Deng, led worship. Music was led by Pastor Kevin Greene, along with Lori Bowman, Rick McMahon, Suzie Bird, Kim Forquer, and Jason Weippert.

The Last Word

God always has the last word in our worship. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing.