

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

Exodus 24:15-18

Leader: Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

People: **The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.**

Leader: Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

People: **Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE

Holy, Holy, Holy

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words by Reginald Heber; Music by John Dykes ©Public Domain

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

1. Let us love and sing and wonder,
Let us praise the Savior's name.
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame.
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He has brought us nigh to God.

2. Let us love the Lord who bought us,
Pitied us when enemies.
Called us by His grace and taught us,
Gave us ears and gave us eyes.
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He presents our souls to God.

3. Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down.
For the Lord our strong salvation
Holds in view the conqueror's crown.
He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood,
Soon will bring us home to God.

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

4. Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store,
When through grace in Christ our trust is,
Justice smiles and asks no more.
He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood,
Has secured our way to God.

5. Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high.
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky.
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,
Thou art worthy, Lamb of God.

*Author: John Newton; Music by Laura Taylor
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NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

CONFESSION OF SIN

O God of Grace, You have imputed our sin to our Substitute, and have imputed His righteousness to our soul, clothing us with a bridegroom's robe, decking us with jewels of holiness. But in our Christian walk we are still in rags. We need to repent of our repentance. We need our tears to be washed. We have no robe to bring to cover our sins, no loom to weave our own righteousness. We are always going into the far country, and always returning home as prodigals, always saying, Father, forgive us, and you are always bringing forth the best robe. Grant us never to lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the exceeding righteousness of salvation, the exceeding glory of Christ, the exceeding beauty of holiness, the exceeding wonder of grace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 6:6-7

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

1. I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray;
Find in Me thine all in all."

Chorus

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

2. Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.
Chorus

3. And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete:
"Jesus died, my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat!
Chorus

MISSIONS MINUTE

Missionaries Mercy Supports:

Angela Bredeman* (Spain)
Chris and Lori Gassler* (Cameroon)
Kyra Marken* (Romania)
Heath McLaughen (RUF Virginia Tech)
Ben Spivey* (RUF Lynchburg)
Ben Wontop (England)
Moore (South East Asia)
*within our congregation

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Jesus Paid it All

Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.
He washed it white as snow.
He washed it white as snow.

(BRIDGE)

Oh, praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead.
(REPEAT 4X)

Chorus

Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.
He washed it white as snow.

*Authors: Alex Nifong / Elvina M. Hall / John Thomas Grape
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SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 11

¹ Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, ² but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. ³ And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”

⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ⁵ And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. ⁶ They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. ⁷ And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, ⁸ and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. ⁹ For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, ¹⁰ and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. ¹³ And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying,

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
who is and who was,
for you have taken your great power
and begun to reign.

¹⁸ The nations raged,
but your wrath came,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,
and those who fear your name,
both small and great,
and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

SERMON **“The Two Witnesses”**
 - Rev. Tony Myers

COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY HYMN

Rock of Ages

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

2. Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

CLOSING SONG

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.

3. Let every kindred every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.

4. O that with yonder sacred throng, we at His feet may fall,
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!

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BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

POSTLUDE