



GRACE FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



The Reverend David Slyter, Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church!
We are glad to have you join us this morning! Please sign the attendance register and pass it back, greeting those near you.

We ask visitors to share their contact information as well.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Sanctuary Handbells

***Call to Worship (Responsive)**

Rebecca Williams

People of God, why are you here?

We gather to worship with our hearts and our lives.

People of God, who do you worship?

We worship God, who loves us and teaches us to love.

People of God, how do you worship?

We worship God by breaking the bonds of injustice and freeing the oppressed.

People of God, come, let us worship God, whose glory surrounds us!

May our worship demonstrate God's glory in our neighborhood, community, and the whole earth.

***Prayer to Invite God's Presence**

God of compassion and justice, the worship you choose for us is to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, to share bread with the hungry, to shelter the homeless poor. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly. So, in praise and wonder, we come to worship you not just with our words but with our hearts and our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn 35**

Lobe Den Herren

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

Children's Moment

Following the Children's Moment, children ages 4—grade 3 who would like to participate in Children's Worship may leave the sanctuary with this week's teachers. Following today's service, you may pick up your child in room 22.

Call to Confession

Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. Let us confess to God whatever has wounded us and seek the grace and mercy that only God can give.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. Forgive us, God.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ into our world.

Silent Confession

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Our God is a God of grace and mercy and love; know that our sins have been forgiven. May we be strengthened in all goodness. Since we have been raised with Christ, let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Music Ministry

Robert Lau

"Sing to the Lord a New Song"
Sanctuary Choir

People and tongues of every nation
sing to the Lord a new song.
Bring Him a song of jubilation,
sing to the Lord a new song.

All God's creatures, old men and children,
voices raised in hymns of love.
He crowns the humble with salvation.
Sing to the Lord a new song.

Mountains and hills and all creation,
sing to the Lord a new song.
Join in a hymn of adoration;
Sing the to Lord a new song.

Praise His name, sing "Alleluia!"
Praise Him for His mighty deeds.
This is our song, our supplication:
"Sing to the Lord a new song."

Praise Him, shining stars, and praise Him highest heavens.
Oh, all kings and princes praise His Holy Name.
Angels above make melody to Him.
Now lift your voice, lift up your heart, and sing!

Come, Christians all, now raise your voices,
sing to the Lord a new song.
Praise and thanksgiving be your choices,
sing to the Lord a new song.

Sound the trumpet, play on the lute and harp;
dance your dance, and shout for joy.
Make music now as heaven rejoices,
sing to the Lord a new song!

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

God, help us to listen to the Word you have spoken.
Help us to listen to the One who is close at hand. Help us to
listen to the voice that began creation. Help us to listen even
if we don't understand. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

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The Word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Psalm 112:1-9

Hymn 755

Weisse Flaggen

"Alleluia! Laud and Blessing"

Second Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

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The Word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Message

Rev. David Slyter

*Hymn 634

To God Be The Glory

"To God Be the Glory"

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer for the people and the Lord's Prayer Choral Amen

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.

Call to Stewardship

Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." May our morning offering be an act of gratitude given from a merciful heart.

Offertory

arr. Charles Callahan

"Prelude on Nettleton"

*Doxology

Hymn 607

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Offertory Prayer

Liberating God, You call us to a fast not of silence, but of service, not of hiding, but of healing. You ask that our worship be more than words, that our offerings be more than ritual. Receive these gifts as signs of our willingness to share bread with the hungry, to break chains of injustice, to repair what is broken. May our generosity reflect your mercy and our living mirror your love. Use us and these gifts, so that light might rise in the darkness and hope take root where despair has reigned. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn 546**

Sicilian Mariners

"Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

***Benediction**

As you have been fed, go to feed the hungry. As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned. As you have been received – give. As you have heard – proclaim. And the blessing which you have received from the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit be always with you. Amen.

***Closing Choral Response**

Dale Wood

God be with you till we meet again,
God be in you, go in peace.
Loving counsels guide, uphold you
with a shepherd's care enfold you.
God be with you till we meet again,
God be in you, go in peace.

***The Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

***Postlude**

Charles Callahan

"Prelude on Foundation"

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:
The Journal of Worship Resources, Year A, vol. 15, no. 1.

35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

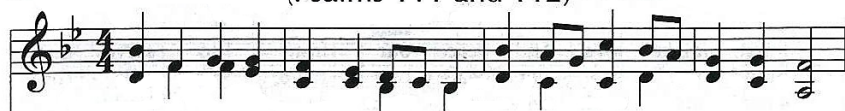
This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

TEXT: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Stralsund Erneuert Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN
 14.14.4.7.8

755 Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

(Psalms 111 and 112)



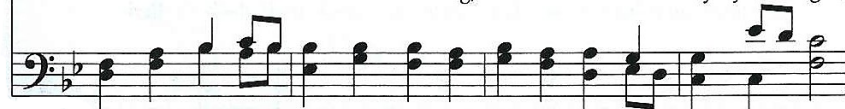
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Laud and bless - ing to our God, whose Word is sure;
2 Al - le - lu - ia! God sus - tains us; match - less are the gifts we share;
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Ho - ly Par - ent, all your chil - dren now re - claim;



by whose grace we find re - demp - tion, in whose love we live se - cure.
light in dark - ness, hope in con - flict, an - swers to our deep - est prayer.
may our lives re - flect your jus - tice, heirs to your most sa - cred name.



Righ - teous - ness and rich com - pas - sion shall at - tend us all our days;
Ours to give as we are giv - en: arms to lift when oth - ers fall;
Fill our hearts with un - der - stand - ing, brace our weak - ness by your might;



may God's prom - ise to be faith - ful ech - o through our songs of praise!
im - ag - es of God's great good - ness, faith - ful ser - vants to God's call.
awe - some hon - or, born in wis - dom; your great glo - ry, our de - light!



Psalms 111 and 112 are appropriately brought together in this paraphrase. Both form acrostics: each poetic line begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order. In addition, both psalms begin with "hallelujah," and they share much vocabulary as well as a theme of praise.

TEXT: Michael Morgan, 2011

MUSIC: Tochter Zion, 1741

Text © 2011 Michael Morgan (admin, Faith Alive Christian Resources)

WEISSE FLAGGEN

8.7.8.7.D

634

To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo - ple re - joice!

O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,

and give him the glo - ry: great things he has done!

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

546 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

This hymn of corporate benediction is one of several using the same first line. It was written by a Baptist pastor who dedicated his entire ministry to a small church in rural Yorkshire. The tune used here was first transcribed from Sicilian sailors in the late 18th century.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chili/Chocolate Cook-off—The annual chili & chocolate cook off will be held NEXT Sunday, February 15. Enter your best chocolate or chili recipe! Rules and detail can be found in LGF. Sign-up on the Stewardship Covenant insert to let us know you will enter.

Breakfast B4 Books—Please join us in welcoming the Weatherford College students with breakfast before school on Wednesday, February 18 at 7 a.m. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the Stewardship Covenant insert or see Virginia Welsh.

Lunch Bunch—Today following worship we will all join together at Skinny's for lunch fellowship. All are welcome!

LOGOS—Please join us each Wednesday for our awesome mid-week intergenerational LOGOS program! This week we will be eating at CiCi's pizza with our prayer partners.
Please pick your child up from CiCi's promptly by 7pm.

Scholarship Applications—Are available in the Narthex! Deadline for submission is March 15 by midnight.

Name Tags—If you would like a name tag, please sign up with your information on the Stewardship Covenant insert.

Ministry Reports—Grab a packet on your way out today and read about what all the ministries of Grace First had accomplished in 2025!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, Feb. 8—Scout Sunday

- 10:40 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Worship & Music Ministry Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Christian Ed. Ministry Meeting
No Youth Group

Monday, Feb. 9

- 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga
- 6:00 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, Feb. 10

- 10:00 a.m. Master Gardeners Monthly Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Scouts
- 6:15 p.m. Back-2-School Planning Meeting

Wed., Feb. 11—Pizza with Prayer Partners

- 11:00 a.m. Board of Trustees Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. PCMG Small Group, Parlor
- 3:45 p.m. Snack and Recreation
- 4:45 p.m. Children's Choirs
- 5:45 p.m. Leave for CiCi's
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 12

- 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Friday, Feb. 13

- 5-10 p.m. Senior Center Dance, Great Hall

Sunday, Feb. 15—Chili/Chocolate Cook-off

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Warm-up
- 10:40 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group Cidercade