

Praise the Lord His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

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### Benediction & Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

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**Prospective Members' Class.** November 12. Here you will walk through our Statement of Faith and Book of Order with Pastor Zach. A meal and childcare is provided for potential new members.



*More details and registration at QR code provided.*

**Member's Meeting.** November 19. Immediately following the Sunday gathering. Observers welcome; covenant members participation only. We will elect our 2024 officers, commend elder resolutions, receive any new members, and adopt the 2024 proposed budget. RSVP for food via Church Center app. Link on website: "Get Involved" > "Special Events"

**Reflection/discussion questions** have moved to the "Sermons" resources page attached to each individual sermon. Ordinarily these will be visible within 24 hours of the sermon. To see an example, look under the video for a button called "Notes" at <https://redeemershuntsville.org/sermons/an-unbreakable-promise>



## Order of Worship

October 22, 2023

### Welcome & Announcements

### Call to Worship

### Prayer of Invocation

### Public Reading of Scripture

John 1:19-34

### The Testimony of John the Baptist

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

## **Behold, the Lamb of God**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

## **Hymn of Praise**

*Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

What is our hope in life and death  
Christ alone Christ alone  
What is our only confidence  
That our souls to Him belong  
Who holds our days within His hand  
What comes apart from His command  
And what will keep us to the end  
The love of Christ in which we stand

[Chorus]

O sing hallelujah  
Our hope springs eternal  
O sing hallelujah  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death

## **Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is an important ordinance of the church—established by Jesus Christ—which has: as its symbol a demonstration of the sacrifice of himself in his death; as its benefit, the confirmation of faith and spiritual nourishment in individual believers; as its exhortation, the reminder to grow and engage in all duties owed to our Lord; as its effect, a bond and pledge of our union with him and each other.

If you are not a baptized believer, we ask that you refrain from this meal and use this time instead take this moment to reflect upon your life and seek the grace God freely offers to all who cast themselves upon Jesus.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ with gluten-sensitivities, our host will have dedicated elements available. They will look for your raised hand.

## **Song of Response**

*His Mercy is More*

What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

## Confession & Promise of Grace

1 John 1:8-9 (ESV)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Pastoral Prayer

### Sermon

“Impossible Faith”

Exodus 2:1-10

1. Each of us will find ourselves in a situation where God has to come through.
2. Each of us are told to have faith that God will come through, even if we don't see how.
3. None of us have the strength to do this alone. That faith is a gift fortified through ever increasing trials.
  - a. What is faith? *Faith is a trusting confidence.*
  - b. How does faith grow? *Faith grows through trials so that we can see in ever-increasing amounts God's trustworthiness.*
4. Jesus himself entered the most desperate of situations to redeem all desperate situations to himself.
5. Knowing that God brings life from death, either here or in eternity, allows us to move from impossible faith to confident faith.

What truth can calm the troubled soul  
God is good God is good  
Where is His grace and goodness known  
In our great Redeemer's blood  
Who holds our faith when fears arise  
Who stands above the stormy trial  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

Unto the grave what will we sing  
Christ He lives Christ He lives  
And what reward will heaven bring  
Everlasting life with Him  
There we will rise to meet the Lord  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy  
When Christ is ours forevermore

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## Affirmation of the Faith

*Orthodox Catechism* (1680) Lesson 7

Q&A 20

Q: Are all saved through Christ just as all were lost through Adam?

**A: No. Only those are saved who by true faith are grafted into Christ and accept all his blessings.<sup>1</sup>**

Q&A 21

Q: What is true faith?

**A: True faith is not only a knowledge and conviction that everything God reveals in his Word is true;<sup>2</sup> it is also a deep-rooted assurance,<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:14; John 3:16, 18, 36; Rom. 11:16-21

<sup>2</sup> John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16

created in me by the Holy Spirit<sup>4</sup> through the gospel,<sup>5</sup> that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,<sup>6</sup> not only others, but I too,<sup>7</sup> have had my sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.<sup>8</sup>

Q&A 22

Q: What then must a Christian believe?

**A: Everything God promises us in the gospel.<sup>9</sup> That gospel is summarized for us in the articles of our Christian faith--a creed beyond doubt, and confessed throughout the world.**

Q&A 23

Q: What are these articles?

**A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator 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 to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to 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<sup>10</sup> church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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<sup>4</sup> Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14

<sup>5</sup> Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10

<sup>7</sup> Gal. 2:20

<sup>8</sup> Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10

<sup>9</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; John 20:30-31

<sup>10</sup> "Catholic" comes from the Gk. *καθόλου* and means "universal." It is not a reference to the church in Rome.

## Song of Faith

*Grace*

Your grace that leads this sinner home  
From death to life forever  
And sings the song of righteousness  
By blood and not by merit

Your grace that reaches far and wide  
To every tribe and nation  
Has called my heart to enter in  
The joy of Your salvation

By grace I am redeemed  
By grace I am restored  
And now I freely walk  
Into the arms of Christ my Lord

Your grace that I cannot explain  
Not by my earthly wisdom  
The price of life without a stain  
Was traded for this sinner

Let praise rise up and overflow  
My song resound forever  
For grace will see me welcomed home  
To walk beside my Savior

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