

WEST ERIE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN
THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE AND
FELLOWSHIP, IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD,
AND IN PRAYERS.”

-ACTS 2:42

WORSHIP LEADERS:
PASTOR MARC MILLER, RE MATT FAIR

THE LORD'S WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements & Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Pslam 99:2-3

Leader: The LORD *is* great in Zion, And He *is* high above all the peoples.

All: *Let them praise Your great and awesome name -- He is holy.*

*Gloria Patri**

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)

Irreg. H.W. Greatorex, 1851

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen, amen.”

PRAYER OF INVOCATION*

*Psalm of Praise**

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.

“Psalm 100”

“William Kethe, 1561”

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with -
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
4. For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with fear, his
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth - tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

CONFESSION OF FAITH*

Westminster Larger Catechism Q&A 89

Leader: What shall be done to the wicked at the day of judgment?

All: At the day of judgment, the wicked shall be set on Christ's left hand, and, upon clear evidence, and full conviction of their own consciences, shall have the fearful but just sentence of condemnation pronounced against them; and thereupon shall be cast out from the favorable presence of God, and the glorious fellowship with Christ, his saints, and all his holy angels, into hell, to be punished with unspeakable torments, both of body and soul, with the devil and his angels forever.

CONFESSION OF SIN

All: "Almighty God, I am a sinner. Your Word and my heart confirm that to me. I have done things You have forbidden and left undone things You have commanded. I have not loved You with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I have not loved my neighbor as myself. As judge of the whole earth You would be just to condemn me. Yet in Your love You sent Christ to bear the guilt of my sin and suffer my punishment. To Him now I flee; forgive me for His sake, and by Your Spirit help me to live in the light of His sacrifice, a life worthy of Your name. Judge me not according to my work but according to Your mercy in Jesus Christ. For in Him I hope and in Him I come before You this day. Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 1:8-9

Leader: Hear the good news! "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

"Psalm 39:1-6"

"Abide with Me"

"I will take heed and guard my ways," I said,
"So that my tongue no sinful word shall stain;
As with a bridle I will keep my mouth,
While in my presence wicked men remain."

In silence dumb I ceased from speaking good;
My heart within was hot, my sorrow stirred;
And while I mused the fire began to burn;
Then spake I with my tongue this earnest word:

"My end, O LORD, and measure of my days
Make me to know, and thus my frailty see.
Lo, Thou hast made my days an handbreadth long;
My lifetime is a nothing unto Thee.

"Each man at best is altogether vain.
Each man doth surely walk in empty show;
They heap up wealth and vex themselves for naught,
Nor know to whom their garnered riches go

PASTORAL PRAYER

All: *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.*

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

Psalm 19:1-14

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

All: *Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.*

Leader: *There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.*

All: *Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,*

Leader: *Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.*

All: *Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

All: *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;*

Leader: The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

All: *More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

Leader: Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.

All: *Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.*

Leader: Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

All: *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezra 7:1-28

Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, ²the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, ⁴the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest -- ⁶this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he *was* a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. ⁷Some of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. ⁸And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which *was* in the seventh year of the king. ⁹On the first *day* of the first month he began *his* journey from Babylon, and on the first *day* of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. ¹⁰For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. ¹¹This *is* a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes to Israel: ¹²Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: Perfect *peace*, and so forth. ¹³I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you. ¹⁴And whereas you are being sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to the Law of your God which *is* in your hand; ¹⁵and *whereas you are* to carry the silver and gold which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling *is* in Jerusalem; ¹⁶and *whereas* all the silver and gold that you may find in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offering of the people and the priests, *are to be* freely offered for the house of their God

in Jerusalem -- ¹⁷now therefore, be careful to buy with this money bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them on the altar of the house of your God in Jerusalem. ¹⁸And whatever seems good to you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do it according to the will of your God. ¹⁹Also the articles that are given to you for the service of the house of your God, deliver in full before the God of Jerusalem. ²⁰And whatever more may be needed for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to provide, pay *for it* from the king's treasury. ²¹And I, *even* I, Artaxerxes the king, issue a decree to all the treasurers who *are in the region* beyond the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, may require of you, let it be done diligently, ²²up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred kors of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribed limit. ²³Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it diligently be done for the house of the God of heaven. For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons? ²⁴Also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom *on* any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or servants of this house of God. ²⁵And you, Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who *are in the region* beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know *them*. ²⁶Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether *it be* death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment. ²⁷Blessed *be* the LORD God of our fathers, who has put *such a thing* as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which *is* in Jerusalem, ²⁸and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God *was* upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.

GOSPEL READING

John 5:24-47

" Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ²⁵Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth -- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. ³⁰I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. ³¹If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. ³²There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. ³³You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. ³⁵He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. ³⁶But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish -- the very works that I do -- bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. ³⁸But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him

you do not believe. ³⁹"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰"But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. ⁴¹"I do not receive honor from men. ⁴²"But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. ⁴³"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. ⁴⁴"How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God? ⁴⁵"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you -- Moses, in whom you trust. ⁴⁶"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷"But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

Hymn of Preparation*

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

"Speak O Lord"

Copyright © 2005 Thankyou Music

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

SERMON

Acts 2:40-47

"The Pattern to Follow"

Pastor Marc Miller

- 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."
- 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.
- 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.
- 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,
- 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
- 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
- 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Sermon Notes:

- Point 1

- Point 2

- Point 3

*Hymn of Response**

TUNE: I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY 7.6.7.6.D

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Kathrine Hankey, 1866.

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
3. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
4. I love to tell the sto - ry; for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
than all the gold - en fan - cies of all our gold - en dreams.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so much for me;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
and that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
'twill be the old, old sto - ry, that I have loved so long.

REFRAIN
I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

BENEDICTION*

Prayer requests

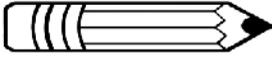
- This week's WEPCA Missionaries: The Williams Family
- Pray for our country's leaders and those who serve us.
- Pray for our elders and deacons.
- Pray for our covenant children.

Announcements

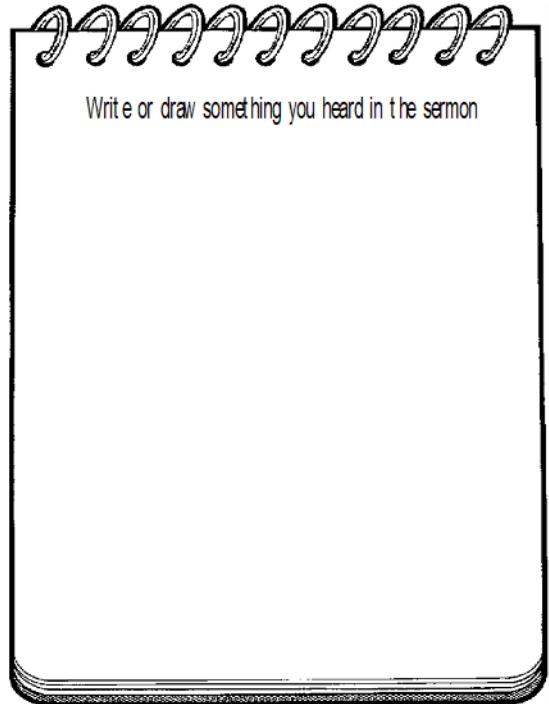
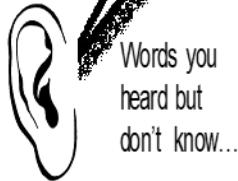
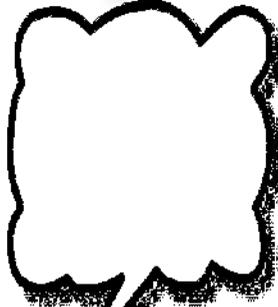
- Prayer meeting: Wednesdays, at 8:30 p.m. over zoom. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Miller.
- Youth Group for Grades 6-12: Sunday, April 12 from 6-7:30 p.m. Invite your friends!
- Men's Bible Study: Saturday, April 11 at 8 a.m. Please read chapter 3 in the Romans study book.
- Sunday School: Sunday at 10 am. We have classes for ages 4 to adults. Please talk to Pastor Miller if you have any questions. **Please note we will not have Sunday School on Sunday, April 5.**
- The church is looking into getting new chairs to help with capacity along with getting the Bibles and hymnals out. There is a sample in the back of church.
- Good Friday Service of Scripture, Psalms and Hymns: Friday, April 3 at 6 p.m.
- After Church Fellowship: Sunday, April 12. Light refreshments will be provided.
- We will be hearing from Paul Wheeler from the Gideons this morning prior to the worship service.

Sermon Notes FOR KIDS

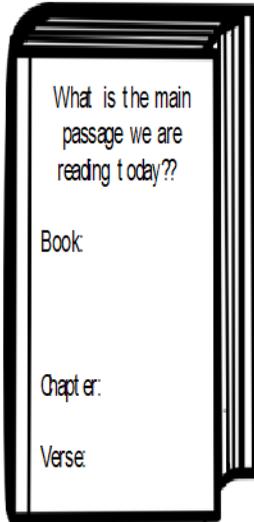
Date: _____



As you attend church services with your family, use this sheet to help you pay attention and learn. We want you to worship with us by singing to God and listening to the message.



Write or draw something you heard in the sermon

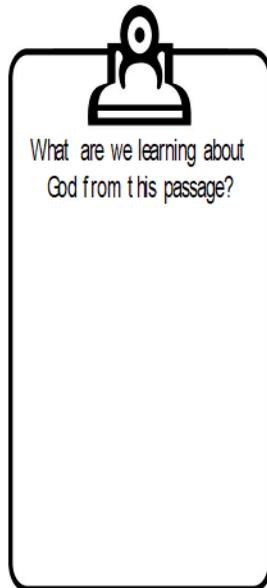


What is the main passage we are reading today??

Book:

Chapter:

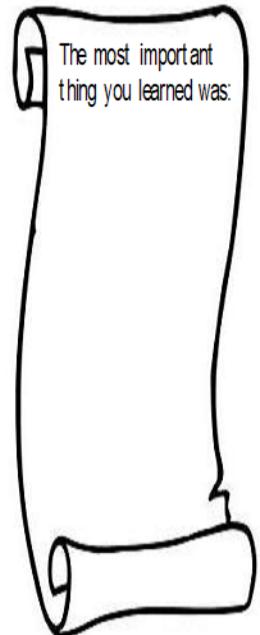
Verse:



What are we learning about God from this passage?



Questions?



The most important thing you learned was:



How does today's message apply to your life?



Favorite song today was:

WELCOME!

If you are visiting our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. There are a few things that we would like you to know about West Erie Presbyterian Church.

- **We are Historically Reformed.**
 - We believe in the inspired and inerrant Word of God.
 - We believe in the absolute sovereignty of God.
 - We hold to a covenantal framework of Scripture.
 - We believe that salvation is a free gift of God.
- **We are Community Oriented.**
 - We seek to share the only hope that this world has: that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - We seek to be a church that is salt and light to the community around us and fulfill the Great Commission.
- **We are Confessional.**
 - As a Christian church, ancient statements such as the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed help us to confess certain basic and essential truths of the Christian faith.
 - As a Presbyterian church, our confessional or doctrinal standards consist of the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms (copies of these documents are available from the church).
 - All of these statements are under the authority of Scripture.

We thank you for visiting today! If you have any questions regarding our style of worship, please feel free to ask the pastor or one of our elders. We would be happy to talk with you. Also, we would ask you to stay after and enjoy the fellowship of our Christian community. West Erie Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (www.pcanet.org).

Phone: (814) 504-6513

Address: 621 West 2nd Street Erie PA, 16507

E-mail: Pastor@wepca.org

www.wepca.org

Download our App on all the major carriers!

