



WEST ERIE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

AND THEY STONED STEPHEN AS HE WAS
CALLING ON *GOD* AND SAYING, "LORD
JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT."

-ACTS 7:59

WORSHIP LEADERS:
PASTOR MARC MILLER, RE MATT FAIR

THE LORD'S WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements & Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Psalm 67:3-4

Leader: Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

All: Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on earth.

*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: RIPLEY 8.7.8.7.D.

“Psalm 146”

The Psalter, 1912.

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some lines indented to align with the musical phrases. The score includes four verses of lyrics, each corresponding to a line of the melody. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;
2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to be his aid;
3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - ner free,
4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;

I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.
he is blessed whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his God is stayed.
rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eye to see.
I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.

Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on man de - pend;
 Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain;
 Well Je - ho - vah loves the righ - teous, and the strang - er he be - friends,
 O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all a - ges he is King;

he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es shall end.
 he de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion, righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
 helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
 un - to him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

CONFESSION OF FAITH*

Apostle's Creed

All: *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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

PSALM 39:4-8

All: *"LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them. And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. Deliver me from all my transgressions; Do not make me the reproach of the foolish." Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.*

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Timothy 1:15

Leader: Hear the good news! "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

"Psalm 101"

"The Church's one Foundation"

Of mercy and of justice, O LORD, I'll sing to Thee.
In uprightness and wisdom Shall my behavior be.
O when in lovingkindness Wilt Thou to me come near?
I'll walk within my dwelling With heart and life sincere.

I will permit no base thing Before my eyes to be.
I hate unfaithful doing; It shall not cleave to me.
The man whose heart is forward Shall from my presence go;
And nothing that is evil Will I consent to know.

I'll cut him off that slanders His neighbor secretly;
I'll not endure the proud heart Nor eyes that haughty be.
My eyes are with the faithful That he may dwell with me;
The man whose walk is upright My minister shall be.

No man of works deceitful Within my house shall dwell;
Nor in my sight shall tarry A man who lies will tell.
Each morning with destruction The wicked I'll reward,
To free from evildoers The city of the LORD.

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 95:1-11

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

All: Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Leader: For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.

All: *In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also.*

Leader: The sea *is* His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry *land*.

All: *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

Leader: For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.
Today, if you will hear His voice:

All: *"Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,*

Leader: When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work.

All: *For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.'*

Leader: So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Esther 4:1-17

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. ²He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one *might* enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. ³And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, *there was* great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept *them*. ⁵Then Esther called Hathach, *one* of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why *this was*. ⁶So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that *was* in front of the king's gate. ⁷And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews. ⁸He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people. ⁹So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai. ¹⁰Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: ¹¹"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, *he has* but one law: put *all* to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days." ¹²So they told Mordecai Esther's words. ¹³And Mordecai told *them* to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴"For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?" ¹⁵Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶"Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which *is* against

the law; and if I perish, I perish!" ¹⁷So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

GOSPEL READING

John 16:1-15

"These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. ² They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. ³ And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. ⁴ But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

*Hymn of Preparation**

TUNE: ARLINGTON C.M.

"Thou Art the Way"

George W. Doane, 1824

1. Thou art the Way: to thee a - lone from sin and death we flee;
2. Thou art the Truth: thy Word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3. Thou art the Life: the rend - ing tomb pro - claims thy con - quering arm,
4. Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: grant us that Way to know,

and he who would the Fa - ther seek must seek him, Lord, by thee.
thou on - ly canst in - form the mind, and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in thee nor death nor hell shall harm.
that Truth to keep, that Life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

SERMON

Acts 6:8-7:60

"The Trial of Stephen"

Pastor Marc Miller

- 8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.
- 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen.
- 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.
- 11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."
- 12 And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon *him*, seized him, and brought *him* to the council.
- 13 They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law;
- 14 "for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us."
- 15 And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.
- 1 Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?"
- 2 And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,
- 3 "and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.'
- 4 "Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.
- 5 "And *God* gave him no inheritance in it, not even *enough* to set his foot on. But even when *Abraham* had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him.
- 6 "But God spoke in this way: that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress *them* four hundred years.
- 7 'And the nation to whom they will be in bondage I will judge,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and serve Me in this place.'
- 8 "Then He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so *Abraham* begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac *begot* Jacob, and Jacob *begot* the twelve patriarchs.
- 9 "And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him
- 10 "and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

- 11 "Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance.
- 12 "But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.
- 13 "And the second *time* Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to the Pharaoh.
- 14 "Then Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his relatives to *him*, seventy-five people.
- 15 "So Jacob went down to Egypt; and he died, he and our fathers.
- 16 "And they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor, *the father* of Shechem.
- 17 " But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt
- 18 "till another king arose who did not know Joseph.
- 19 "This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live.
- 20 "At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months.
- 21 "But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son.
- 22 "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.
- 23 "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.
- 24 "And seeing one of *them* suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian.
- 25 "For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.
- 26 "And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and *tried to* reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?'
- 27 "But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?
- 28 'Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?'
- 29 "Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.
- 30 "And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.
- 31 "When Moses saw *it*, he marveled at the sight; and as he drew near to observe, the voice of the Lord came to him,
- 32 "*saying*, 'I *am* the God of your fathers -- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses trembled and dared not look.
- 33 "Then the LORD said to him, "Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.

- 34 "I have surely seen the oppression of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt." ¹
- 35 "This Moses whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God sent *to be* a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush.
- 36 "He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.
- 37 "This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.'
- 38 "This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and *with* our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,
- 39 "whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt,
- 40 "saying to Aaron, 'Make us gods to go before us; *as for* this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'
- 41 "And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.
- 42 "Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: 'Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices *during* forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?
- 43 You also took up the tabernacle of Moloch, And the star of your god Remphan, Images which you made to worship; And I will carry you away beyond Babylon.'
- 44 "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen,
- 45 "which our fathers, having received it in turn, also brought with Joshua into the land possessed by the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers until the days of David,
- 46 "who found favor before God and asked to find a dwelling for the God of Jacob.
- 47 "But Solomon built Him a house.
- 48 "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says:
- 49 'Heaven *is* My throne, And earth *is* My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what *is* the place of My rest?
- 50 Has My hand not made all these things?' ⁵¹ " *You* stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so *do* you.

- 51 "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,
- 52 "who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept *it*."
- 53 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with *their* teeth.
- 54 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,
- 55 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"
- 56 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;
- 57 and they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.
- 58 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
- 59 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Sermon Notes:

- Point 1
- Point 2
- Point 3

Hymn of Response*

TUNE: HALLELUJAH WHAT A SAVIOR! 7.7.7.8.

"Man of Sorrows! What a Name"

Philip P. Bliss, 1875

1. Man of Sor - rows! what a name for the Son of God, who came
 2. Bear - ing shame and scoff - ing rude, in my place con - demned he stood,
 3. Guilt - y, vile, and help - less, we; spot - less Lamb of God was he;
 4. Lift - ed up was he to die, "It is fin - ished!" was his cry;
 5. When he comes, our glo - rious King, all his ran - somed home to bring,

ru - ined sin - ners to re - claim: Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior!
 sealed my par - don with his blood: Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior!
 • full a - tone - ment! can it be? Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior!
 now in heav'n ex - alt - ed high: Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior!
 then a - new this song we'll sing: Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior!

BENEDICTION*

Prayer requests

- This week's WEPCA Missionaries: The Garrett Family
- Pray for our country's leaders and those who serve us.
- Pray for our elders and deacons.
- Pray for our covenant children.
- Pray for the purchase of a new church property

Announcements

- Youth Group for Grades 6-12: Sunday, October 4, from 6-7:30 p.m. Please Invite your friends!
- Men's Bible Study: Saturday, October 3, at 8 am. Please read Lesson 7 in the "Let's Study Romans" book.
- Sunday School: We have classes for pre-k through adults. The Adults will be studying the creeds and confessions of the church.
- Ascension Presbytery Women's Conference: "Gospel Transformation: In the Hands of the Potter." Saturday, October 24 at Hillcrest PCA in Volant from 9am to 3pm. There is a QR code to sign-up for the event on the back bulletin board.
- Fellowship Time: Today following the morning worship service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!
- Women's Care Center Banquet: The church will be sponsoring a table at the Celebrate Life Banquet. It will be on Saturday September 26th starting at 6:15 p.m. at the Ambassador Center on Upper Peach Street. There is a sign-up sheet in the back if you would like to attend.
- Presbytery of the Ascension Day of Prayer: Our Presbytery is encouraging a day of prayer for repentance, revival, and renewal in the church. The day is Sunday, September 27. It will conclude with a prayer service at Hillcrest PCA in Volant. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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).

New Here?



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