

The Lord's Day

March 30, 2025 at 10:30 AM

We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.

As you join us today, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.

Please turn off your cell phone and turn your hearts and minds toward God.

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

Not loving Christ is the ultimate sin.

Ben Witherington III

Prelude

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

(Olivet tune) Lowell Mason

Dr. Kenneth Dean, Jr., Director of Music Ministries

Please quietly prepare your hearts for worship during the Prelude.

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

We praise our great God

Call to Worship

Psalm 133

¹ Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.

Invocation

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Ode to Joy

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,

Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the Joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sun-ward In the triumph song of life.

We embrace Christ through His Word

The Command of God

1 John 3:23

And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

The Division Created by Christ

Luke 12:51-53

⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Confession of God's Grace and Our Unity (Responsive)

Ephesians 2:1-16

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience

³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved

⁶ and [He] raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace [we] have been saved through faith.

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands

¹² remember that [we] were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace,

who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two,

so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

Hymn

Beneath the Cross

Getty

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy
That calls me as I am;
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus
His family is my own
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor
The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus
See the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus
The path before the crown
We follow in His footsteps
Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride;
Beneath the cross of Jesus
We will gladly live our lives.

We acknowledge God's blessings

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (**in unison**)

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

O God Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst
The Aisquith Choir

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end; we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord. Alleluia. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we

who know your favor may serve you as our King; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still; to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise. Alleluia.

The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731) and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

We are nourished by God's Word

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 16:21-24

Pew Bible pg. 963

²¹ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. ²² If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Sermon

"The Great Divide"

Pastor Ceselsky

Sermon Outline can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

We respond to God's Grace

Trinity Psalter

Psalm 133

Azmon (O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing)

¹ Behold how good a thing it is,
And how becoming well,
When those that brethren
Are delight
In unity to dwell.

² For it is like the precious oil
Poured out on Aaron's head,
That, going down upon his beard,
Upon his garments spread.

³ Like Hermon's dew upon the hills
Of Zion that descends,
The LORD commands His
Blessing there,
Ev'n life that never ends.

Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (Hymnal, pg. 740)

Danish

Postlude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (Tune: Lobe Den Herren)

Stralsund Gesangbuch

Please be seated and quietly reflect upon the Lord's grace during the Postlude.

Announcements

Tulips for Easter: The book is in the narthex to sign up for tulips for the Easter service. The cost of each plant is \$10 (please use one of the pink envelopes in the book or pew racks) and the deadline to sign up is TODAY!

We will be holding a potluck congregational lunch and fellowship time with John & Gwen Cicone on Sunday, April 13. The church will be providing the main course (hamburgers, hot dogs, and BBQ chicken) and drinks. Each family is asked to bring either a vegetable, salad, or dessert.

Our Easter Offering the Year will again go to Mission to North America's Disaster Relief Ministry as they continue to try and help those in the Southeastern part of the United States as they recover from Hurricanes Milton and Helene.

The Andrade Family needs help with home-schooling their three daughters 4 days per week. This will be a paid opportunity to assist this dear family. If you are interested, or know someone who may be able to assist them, please speak directly with Angela.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for Stuart Jones and his family as Stuart recovers from major surgery while beginning the process of in-patient rehab.
2. Please continue to be in prayer for Dina Sunderland as she has begun chemotherapy treatments for her non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Pray for wisdom for those caring for Dina and that the Lord would be pleased to use her witness to Christ during this time.
3. Please continue to be in prayer for Buckey Pearre as he continues to struggle with breathing issues. Due to the risk Buckey did not have the scheduled bronchoscopy this past week. Please pray as well with regard to a neurology appointment Buckey has scheduled for April 29 – Buckey and Nancy are asking that we pray that an opening would become available earlier than that. Please pray as well for Nancy as she cares for Buckey.
4. Please be in prayer for Aisquith members, family members, and friends of the Aisquith Community who are currently struggling with various illnesses and other physical and emotional issues.

Weekly Calendar

TODAY:	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages Children – Rooms 16 & 17 Adults – Room 11
	10:30 AM	Lord's Day Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal – Rooms 26 & 27
	5:30 PM	Bell Choir Practice – Room 28
Tuesday	10:30 AM	Women's Bible Study – Rooms 15 & 16 (Please prepare pages 71-74 – Anna)
Wednesday:	7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study – Rooms 15 & 16 (Please prepare pages 133-138)
NEXT Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages Children – Rooms 16 & 17

Adults – Room 11
10:30 AM Lord's Day Worship Service with The Lord's Supper
12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal – Rooms 26 & 27

Coming Soon

Cookout & Fellowship Luncheon with the Cicones – April 13 – 12:00 PM
Maundy Thursday Worship Service – April 17 – 7:00 PM at Aisquith
Good Friday Worship Service – April 18 – 7:00 PM at Loch Raven

Church Officers

Ruling Elders: Riley B. Franklin, Jeff Soule & Mark Werner (Clerk)
Deacons: Andrew Bell, Gus DeFord, Jonathan Frank, Ken Schumann (President), and Rick Willis
Deaconesses: Christine Clark, Debbie DeFord, Judi Mason, Fran Oswinkle, & Jeanne Williams (Moderator)

Sermon Notes

Date: March 30, 2025
Text: 1 Corinthians 16:21-24
Sermon Title: "The Great Divide"
Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: Christ is the Great Divide who alone is the means for unity for humanity.

Main Point 1: The Great Divide: Love for Christ.

Point 1: Paul's prayer for those who do not love Christ. (v. 22a)

Point 2: The prayer of those who love Christ. (v. 22b-c)

Main Point 2: The Means of Overcoming the Divide: Grace from Christ. (v. 23)

Point 1: Only grace can overcome our divide.

Point 2: The grace that overcomes our divide is only found in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Main Point 3: No Divide: Our Unity in Christ. (v. 24)

Point 1: Believers are united to Christ.

Point 2: Believers are to love like Christ.