

The Lord's Day

August 17, 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...

Seeing the ark, Israel's hosts should have remembered God's law, considered their own sin, and cast themselves upon God's mercy symbolized through the mercy seat atop the ark, where the sacrificial lamb's blood – looking forward to the cross of Jesus Christ – would be sprinkled to cover Israel's sin before God's sight. Instead, Israel was so presumptuous of God's favor that the people saw no danger in having the two lawbreaking priests as escorts for God's holy ark,

Richard Phillips

Prelude

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

(Tune: Hamburg) Gordon Young

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 4:1-3

¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

² O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?

How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

³ But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;
the Lord hears when I call to him.

Invocation

Hymn No. 92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein Feste Burg

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;

Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure,
For lo! His doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them abideth;
The spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

We embrace Christ through His Word

Our Confession of Sin (Responsive)

1 Corinthians 10:6-14

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

⁷ **Do not be idolaters as some of them were;**

as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."

⁸ **We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.**

⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,

¹⁰ **nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.**

¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

¹² **Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.**

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Individual Confession of Sin

Our Confession of Christ (Responsive)

Isaiah 53

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² **For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;**

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ **He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;**

and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ **Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;**

yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ **But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;**

upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;**

and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;**

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away;

and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death,

although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief;

when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring;

he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;

by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,

because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

The Wisdom of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Read by: Mr. Bryan Lee

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Hymn No. 252

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hamburg

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,

Demands my soul, my life, my all.

We acknowledge God's blessings

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

RE Jeff Soule

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

For The Beauty of the Earth

(Tune: Dix) Earl Larson

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 Samuel 4:1b-11

Pew Bible pg. 227

^{1b} Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. ² The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. ³ And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies." ⁴ So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

⁵ As soon as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. ⁶ And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" And when they learned that the ark of the Lord had come to the camp, ⁷ the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "A god has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. ⁸ Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. ⁹ Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight."

¹⁰ So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. ¹¹ And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

Sermon

"God Cannot Be Manipulated"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

We respond to God's Grace

Hymn

The Power of the Cross

Getty

O, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

**This the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

O to see the pain written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, every evil deed
Crowning Your blood stained brow.

Refrain

Now the daylight flees; Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life –
“Finished!” the vict'ry cry.

Refrain

O, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love!

This the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God – slain for us
What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

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

Danish

Postlude *Sonata of Glory* arr. Don Wyrzten
(*Medley of To God Be the Glory, Bless the Lord, O My Soul, & Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*)

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

Announcements

An informational Meeting of the Congregation is hereby called for TODAY, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the congregation of needed, and long-overdue repairs to the roof. This is a very important meeting, and all members and regular attendees are encouraged to come.

The Center for Pregnancy Concerns will be holding their 45th Anniversary Gala at 8 PM on Thursday, September 4 at the Sheraton in Towson. Admission is Free. Steven Holland (a pro-life speaker who was conceived via rape, and a worship leader) will be the speaker. While admission is free, you **MUST** sign up online to attend the gala. You may do so at this website:
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/k4r8hp5>

A New Members Class will begin shortly. Please contact Pastor Ceselsky if you are interested in taking this class.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week: Today (August 17) is Carole McQuay's birthday, and Friday (August 22) is George Oswinkle's birthday.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for Betty Jo Norris as she recovers from her recent broken wrist.
2. Please continue to be in prayer for Drew Calhoun, Mark Fisher's stepfather, who has been diagnosed with, and is receiving treatment for Metastatic cancer. Please pray for comfort and for wisdom for those who will be caring for him.
3. Missions Prayer Request for the Week: Trip Beans (RUF UMBC) – Please pray for Trip as he is preaching at Chapelgate Presbyterian Church today. Pray as well as he is working on a last fundraising push for the end of the year. (He needs to raise \$50,000.00 additional to balance out some financial transitions our ministry is going through.) And finally, pray as well as he is preparing his staff team for the fall. He has a new intern, Titus, who will be joining the staff made up of Ruth (full time staff), Joy ((Trip's wife) part-time staff), and me. They are excited to resume ministry on the campus soon!
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:	10:30 AM	Lord's Day Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Congregational Meeting
NEXT Sunday	10:30 AM	Lord's Day Worship Service

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: August 17, 2025

Text: 1 Samuel 4:1b-11

Sermon Title: "God Cannot Be Manipulated"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: God does not submit himself to our intentions, we must submit ourselves to His purposes.

Main Point 1: A superior enemy.

Point 1: The adversary. (v. 1)

Point 2: The battle. (v. 2)

Main Point 2: A people graciously given God's Word.

Point 1: The correct question. (v. 3a)

Point 2: An incorrect answer. (vv. 3b-4)

Point 3: The superstitious cries. (vv. 5-8)

Main Point 3: Serious Consequences. (vv. 9-11)

Point 1: Did Yahweh suffer defeat?

Point 2: Yahweh's purpose.