

The Lord's Day

September 7, 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...

Seven months Israel was punished with the absence of the ark, that special token of God's presence. ... Seven months the Philistines were punished with the presence of the ark; so long it was a plague to them, because they would not send it home sooner. Sinners lengthen out their own miseries by obstinately refusing to part with their sins.

Matthew Henry

Prelude

Be Still My Soul

(Tune: Finlandia) – Jean Sibelius

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

Psalms 96:1-9

- ¹ Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
- ² Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
- ⁴ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
- ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

Invocation

Hymn No. 4

All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden Zart

All praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
The God of wonders, pow'r, and love, the God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul he fills, the God who every sorrow stills,
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty pow'r hath made his gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning dawn or evening shade his watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of his might, lo, all is just and all is right.
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, O hear my calling!
For death he gave me life indeed and kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be; O thank him, thank our God with me.
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord forsaketh not his flock, his chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock, their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand he leads his own, his chosen band.
To God all praise and glory!

Ye who confess Christ's holy name, to God give praise and glory!
Ye who the Father's pow'r proclaim, to God give praise and glory!
All idols underfoot be trod, the Lord is God! The Lord is God!
To God all praise and glory!

Then come before his presence now and banish fear and sadness;
To your Redeemer pay your vow and sing with joy and gladness;
Though great distress my soul befell, the Lord, my God, did all things well.
To God all praise and glory!

We embrace Christ through His Word

Psalter Reading (Responsive)

Psalm 115

¹ Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

² **Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"**

³ Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

⁴ **Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.**

⁵ They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

⁶ **They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.**

⁷ They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.

⁸ **Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.**

⁹ O Israel, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield.

¹⁰ **O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield.**

¹¹ You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield.

¹² **The Lord has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;**

¹³ he will bless those who fear the Lord, both the small and the great.

- ¹⁴ **May the Lord give you increase, you and your children!**
¹⁵ May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth!
¹⁶ **The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.**
¹⁷ The dead do not praise the Lord, nor do any who go down into silence.
¹⁸ **But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!**

Individual Confession of Sin

“The human heart is a perpetual idol factory.” – John Calvin

The Promise of God

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins,
 he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Command of God

1 Corinthians 10:14

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

The Consummation wrought by God

Philippians 2:9-11

- ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn No. 75

O Father, You Are Sovereign

St. Theodulph

O Father, you are sovereign in all the worlds you made;
 Your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.
 Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the ocean's shore,
 Sets stars within their courses and stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, you are sovereign in all affairs of man;
 No pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan.
 All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space,
 You hold your trusting children secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign, the Lord of human pain,
 Transmuting earthly sorrows to gold of heav'nly gain.
 All evil overruling, as none by Conqu'ror could,
 Your love pursues its purpose – our souls' eternal good.

O Father, you are sovereign! We see you dimly now,
 But soon before your triumph earth's every knee shall bow.
 With this glad home before us our faith springs up anew;
 Our sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and worship you!

We acknowledge God's blessings

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

RE Riley B. Franklin

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Sonatina (Air in E-Flat)

J.S. Bach

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 and Sacrament

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 5:1-6:1

Pew Bible pg. 228

^{5:1} When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. ² Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. ³ And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. ⁴ But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. ⁵ This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

⁶ The hand of the Lord was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he terrified and afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory. ⁷ And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god." ⁸ So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" They answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath." So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there. ⁹ But after they had brought it around, the hand of the Lord was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them. ¹⁰ So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But as soon as the ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people." ¹¹ They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not kill us and our people." For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there. ¹² The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

^{6:1} The ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines seven months.

Sermon

"Yahweh's Victory Tour"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

We respond to God's Grace

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
 Thou my best thought by day or by night,
 waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
 I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
 Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
 Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
 Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r:
 Raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
 Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
 High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Son!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

Danish

Postlude

Fugue in A-Minor

J.S. Bach

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

Announcements

We will be having a Church Picnic on Sunday, September 21 (Rain Date is September 28) at 1:30 PM (The meal will be promptly served beginning at 1:45) at John & Julie's Home. **ALL ARE INVITED!** The church will be providing the main course (Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Sausages, and BBQ Chicken) and the Drinks. Each family unit is asked to bring either a side dish (vegetable, fruit, or salad) or a dessert. There is a RSVP sign up in the narthex so that we will know you are coming and what food you will be bringing (so that we don't overly duplicate). The deadline to RSVP is Wednesday, September 17.

Donations for the Roof repair can be made through the ARC Fund. Please use a pink envelope and label it "ARC" or "Roof." As of the end of August, the total cost of the project is \$107,185.00; Amount paid to the contractor thus far: \$37,120.00; and the amount donated is \$4,315.00.

Discipleship Ministries here at Aisquith will be resuming soon! Sunday School for all ages will begin NEXT Sunday, with Sandy Jones and Betty Werner teaching the children and RE Riley Franklin leading the adult class in a study of the Book of Galatians. The men's Bible Study will resume on TUESDAY

(new night) September 16 at 7 PM studying the Book of Daniel; while the women's Bible Study will resume Wednesday, September 17 at 10:30 AM doing an overview of the whole Bible.

A Grief Share Session will be beginning on September 16 (meeting from 12 PM to 2 PM) at Valley Presbyterian Church. You can find details at www.griefshare.org.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week: Today is both Kenji Fisher's and Libby Soule's Birthday, Wednesday (September 10) is Karen Wallace's Birthday, and Friday (September 12) is Damian Andrade's Birthday.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for George and Ruth Ellen Beerli – George is recovering from foot surgery and Ruth Ellen from a fall and broken thumb. Please pray as well for their daughter Marlies and her 3 children as they seek to care, not only for George and Ruth Ellen, but also for George's sister, Sylvia Barfield.
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: Calvin & Geeta Taylor (MTW – Southeast Asia) – The team will be launching a new church plant in November – pray for the leadership in both the mother church and the new plant. Please pray as well for the end of the monsoon season – this year has been much heavier, and deadlier than usual.
4. Please be in prayer for those in our congregation who have on-going health concerns: Joyce Donohue, Evelyn King, Libby Soule & Ken Wilson.
5. 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 with The Lord's Supper
Tuesday:	5:30 PM	Bell Choir Practice – Room 28
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting – Room 38
Saturday:	10:00 AM	Choir Practice – Rooms 26-27
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

Coming Soon

Sunday, September 21 – Church Picnic at John & Julie's (Rain date is September 28)

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: September 7, 2025

Text: 1 Samuel 5:1-6:1

Sermon Title: “Yahweh’s Victory Tour”

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: We must completely (and unconditionally) surrender ourselves to the Lord (and to His Lordship).

Main Point 1: Yahweh’s hand to hand combat.

Point 1: Yahweh’s defeat. (vv. 1-2)

Point 2: Dagon’s dismemberment. (vv. 3-5)

Main Point 2: Yahweh’s heavy hand.

Point 1: Ashdod. (vv. 1-7)

Point 2: Gath. (vv. 8-9)

Point 3: Ekron. (vv.10-12)

Main Point 3: Yahweh’s hand raised. (vv. 11-12)