

The Lord's Day

September 21, 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...

There is a sense in which it is dangerous to be in the presence of God. But we must not want him 'to go up away from us.' We must regard his presence as our supreme joy and our supreme peril. Dale Ralph Davis

Prelude *Jesus Is All The World To Me* (Tune- Elizabeth) - Will L. Thompson
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

1 Samuel 2:1-2

¹ My heart exults in the Lord;
my horn is exalted in the Lord.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.

² There is none holy like the Lord:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.

Invocation

Hymn No. 100

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Nicaea

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,

Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

We embrace Christ through His Word

We are Confronted with the Holiness of God

Isaiah 6:1-7

Read by: Mr. Lee Cade

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

We are Confronted with our Fallen Nature

Romans 3:10-18

Read by: Mr. Paul Wallace

¹⁰ As it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands;
no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”

¹³ “Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Our Confession of Sin (Responsive)

Romans 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

¹⁹ **For what can be known about God is plain to [us], because God has shown it to [us].**

²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

So [we] are without excuse.

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

²² Claiming to be wise, [we] became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

²⁵ because [we] exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Individual Confession of Sin

Our Assurance in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17-18a

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself.

Hymn No. 164

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of reigning sin, he sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosen'd tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

We acknowledge God's blessings

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

RE Mark Werner

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Jesu, Word of God Incarnate (Ave Verum) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
The Aisquith Choir

Jesu, Word of God Incarnate, Of the Virgin Mary born; On the cross thy sacred body, For us men, with nails was torn. Cleanse us by the blood and water streaming from Thy pierced side. Feed us with Thy body broken, Now and in death's agony, Now, now, now, now and in death's agony.

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 6:13-7:2

Pew Bible pg. 229

¹³ Now the people of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley. And when they lifted up their eyes and saw the ark, they rejoiced to see it. ¹⁴ The cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh and stopped there. A great stone was there. And they split up the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord. ¹⁵ And the Levites took down the ark of the Lord and the box that was beside it, in which were the golden figures, and set them upon the great stone. And the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices on that day to the Lord. ¹⁶ And when the five lords of the Philistines saw it, they returned that day to Ekron.

¹⁷ These are the golden tumors that the Philistines returned as a guilt offering to the Lord: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron, ¹⁸ and the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both fortified cities and unwalled villages. The great stone beside which they set down the ark of the Lord is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh.

¹⁹ And he struck some of the men of Beth-shemesh, because they looked upon the ark of the Lord. He struck seventy men of them, and the people mourned because the Lord had struck the people with a great blow. ²⁰ Then the men of Beth-shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before the Lord, this holy God? And to whom shall he go up away from us?" ²¹ So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying, "The Philistines have returned the ark of the Lord. Come down and take it up to you."

^{7:1} And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the Lord. ² From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

Sermon

"The Return of the Ark"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

We respond to God's Grace

Hymn No. 156

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

St. Theodulph

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord Most Holy, your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation, love brought you down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.

O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace,
In love all love excelling, our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice, then, you sad hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed and tremble at your doom.
Despair not, he is near you, yea, standing at the door,
Who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.
He comes, for men procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,
For all God's sons securing their heritage in heaven.

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

Danish

Postlude

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Sy Miller/Jill Jackson

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

Announcements

We will be having a Church Picnic TODAY 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.

Donations for the Roof repair can be made through the ARC Fund. Please use a pink envelope and label it "ARC" or "Roof."

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week: Thursday (September 25) is Nancy Moultrup's Birthday.

Prayer Requests

1. We give praise that Dina Sunderland had a wonderful report from her doctor. Her post-chemotherapy PET scan revealed no signs of cancer! She will see the doctor again in 3 months so they can monitor her status.
2. Please be in prayer for Evelyn King's brother, Mike. His wife had been receiving chemotherapy treatments for cancer, but she passed away on Monday. This is now a second wife that has passed from cancer. Please pray for the Lord's comfort and mercies for Mike in this time of mourning.
3. Please continue to be in prayer for Rick Willis' brother as he recovers from his stroke. Please also be in prayer for Rick's sister who will have surgery later this month to remove a blood clot.
4. Please continue to be in prayer for John Clark and his family, and especially for John's mother as she is receiving hospice care.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. Missions Prayer Request for the Week: Larry & Sandy Rockwell (MTW – Peru) – Please pray for Larry and Sandy as they continue to share the Gospel and teach God's Word to the Quechua people. Pray that the Lord would bless their efforts and keep them from getting discouraged in those times when they do not see fruits born out of their labors.
8. Please continue to be in prayer for those in our congregation who have on-going health concerns: Joyce Donohue, Evelyn King, Libby Soule & Ken Wilson.
9. 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
	1:30 PM	Church Picnic – John & Julie's House
Tuesday:	5:30 PM	Bell Choir Practice – Room 28
	7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study – Rooms 15-16 (Please prepare Lesson 2 on Daniel 2:1-23 (Pages 23-30))
Wednesday:	10:30 AM	Women's Bible Study – Rooms 15-16 (Please prepare pages 6-9 of the Chronological Guide to the Bible)
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
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice – Rooms 26-27

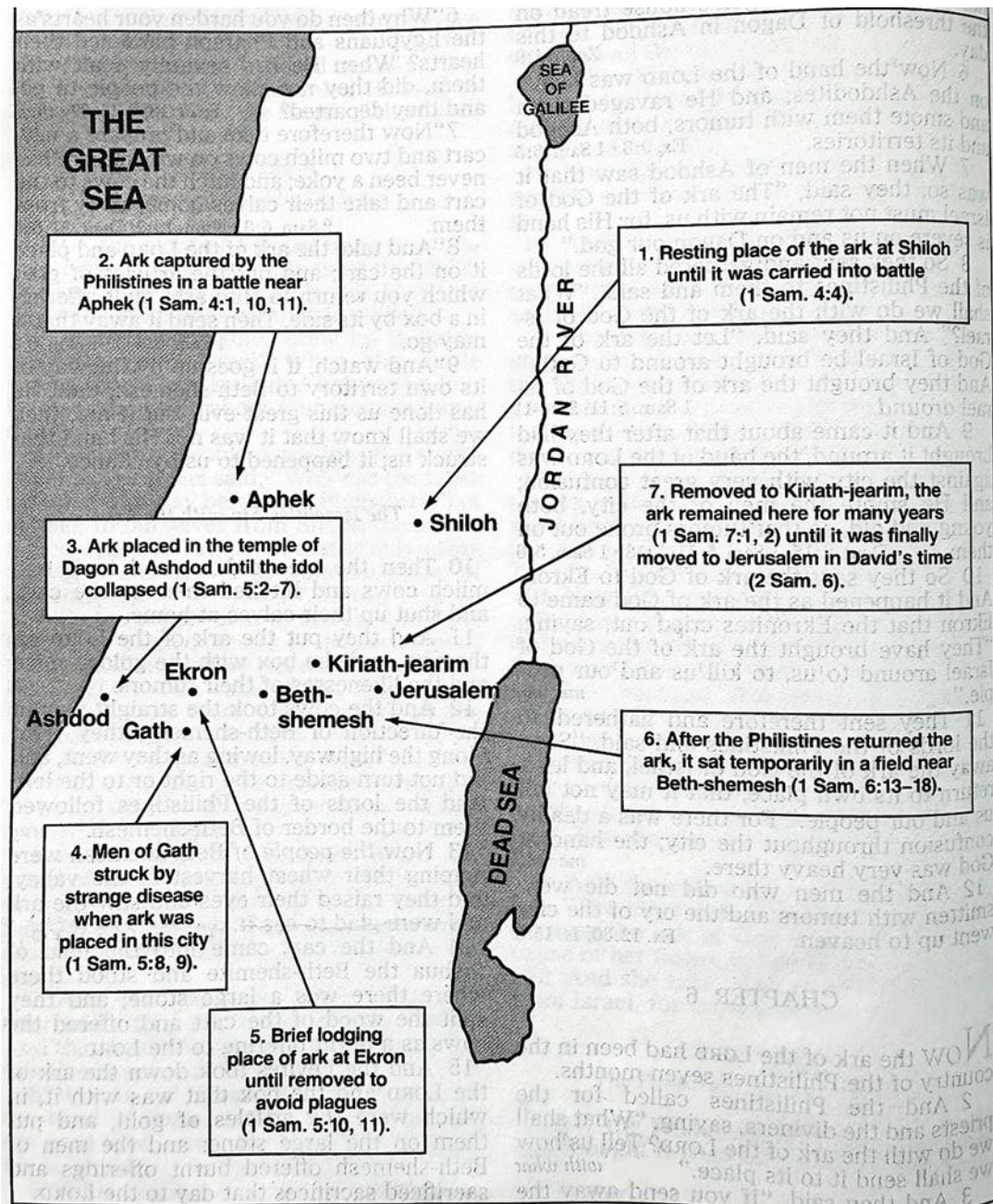
Church Officers

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)

Image from The New Open Bible – NASB Study Bible Edition.



Sermon Notes

Date: September 21, 2025

Text: 1 Samuel 6:13-7:2

Sermon Title: "The Return of the Ark"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: We must come to the Lord on His terms.

Main Point 1: The Worship of a Worthy God. (vv. 13-16)

Point 1: The worship of God's people.

Point 2: The world forsakes true worship.

Main Point 2: The Heavy-Hand of a Holy God. (v.19)

Point 1: What did the people of Israel do?

Point 2: What/Why did the Lord do what he did?

Point 3: What about the Philistines?

Main Point 3: The Seclusion of a Frightful God. (vv. 20-7:2)

Point 1: The worldly response of the Church.

Point 2: The faithful response of a remnant.