

## *The Lord's Day*

March 8, 2026 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...*

*Saul was finally getting around to obeying the commands of God's Word. It is never wrong for believers to begin practicing what God has commanded – in this matter, it truly is better late than never.* Richard Phillips

Prelude

*Beneath The Cross*

Getty

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 31:21-24

<sup>21</sup> Blessed be the Lord,  
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me  
when I was in a besieged city.

<sup>22</sup> I had said in my alarm,  
“I am cut off from your sight.”

But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy  
when I cried to you for help.

<sup>23</sup> Love the Lord, all you his saints!  
The Lord preserves the faithful  
but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

<sup>24</sup> Be strong, and let your heart take courage,  
all you who wait for the Lord!

Invocation

Hymn No. 590

*Jesus, Master, Whose I Am*

Wells

Jesus, Master, whose I am, purchased thine alone to be  
By thy blood, O spotless Lamb, shed so willingly for me,  
Let my heart be all thine own, let me live to thee alone.

Jesus, Master, I am thine; keep me faithful, keep me near;  
Let thy presence in me shine all my homeward way to cheer.  
Jesus, at thy feet I fall, O be thou my all in all.

Jesus, Master, whom I serve, though so feebly and so ill,  
Strengthen hand and heart and nerve all my bidding to fulfill.  
Open thou mine eyes to see all the work thou hast for me.

Lord, thou needest not, I know, service such as I can bring,  
Yet I long to prove and show full allegiance to my King.  
Thou an honor art to me: let me be a praise to thee.

### **We embrace Christ through His Word**

Psalter Reading (Responsive)

Psalms 37

- <sup>1</sup> Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!  
<sup>2</sup> **For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.**  
<sup>3</sup> Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.  
<sup>4</sup> **Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**  
<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.  
<sup>6</sup> **He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.**  
<sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;  
**Fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!**  
<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.  
<sup>9</sup> **For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.**  
<sup>10</sup> In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.  
<sup>11</sup> **But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.**  
<sup>12</sup> The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him,  
<sup>13</sup> **but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming.**  
<sup>14</sup> The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright;  
<sup>15</sup> **their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.**  
<sup>16</sup> Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked.  
<sup>17</sup> **For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.**  
<sup>18</sup> The Lord knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever;  
<sup>19</sup> **they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance.**  
<sup>20</sup> But the wicked will perish;  
**The enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.**  
<sup>21</sup> The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives;  
<sup>22</sup> **for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.**  
<sup>23</sup> The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way;  
<sup>24</sup> **though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.**  
<sup>25</sup> I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.  
<sup>26</sup> **He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.**  
<sup>27</sup> Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever.  
<sup>28</sup> **For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints.**  
They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.  
<sup>29</sup> **The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.**

<sup>30</sup> The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.

<sup>31</sup> **The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.**

<sup>32</sup> The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death.

<sup>33</sup> **The Lord will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.**

<sup>34</sup> Wait for the Lord and keep his way,

**And he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.**

<sup>35</sup> I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree.

<sup>36</sup> **But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found.**

<sup>37</sup> Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.

<sup>38</sup> **But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.**

<sup>39</sup> The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

<sup>40</sup> **The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.**

#### Individual Confession of Sin

#### Our Assurance of His Faithfulness

2 Timothy 2:11-13

<sup>11</sup> The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

<sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful.

#### Our Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 75

What is sanctification?

**Sanctification is a work of God's grace, whereby they whom God has, before the foundation of the world, chosen to be holy, are in time, through the powerful operation of his Spirit applying the death and resurrection of Christ unto them, renewed in their whole man after the image of God; having the seeds of repentance unto life, and all other saving graces, put into their hearts, and those graces so stirred up, increased, and strengthened, as that they more and more die unto sin, and rise unto newness of life.**

#### Hymn

*The Old Rugged Cross*

George Bennard

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross. Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.**

Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above, to bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see,  
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;

Then he'll call me someday to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share.

**We respond in gratitude for God's blessing**

We Prepare to Enter God's Presence

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 101

What do we pray for in the first petition?

**In the first petition, which is, *Hallowed be thy name*, we pray that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all that whereby he makes himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.**

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

RE Riley B. Franklin

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

*'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus*

William J. Kirkpatrick  
The Aisquith Choir

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word. Just to rest upon his promise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord." Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er! Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more! O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood, just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing cleansing flood! Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er! Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him, only trust him, only trust him, only trust him, So glad I trust him now. I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend: And I know that thou art with me, will be with me to the end. Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er! Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace O for grace, O for grace to trust him, more, for grace, for grace to trust him, trust him more.

*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 13:1-7

Pew Bible pg. 234

<sup>1</sup> Saul lived for one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel, <sup>2</sup> Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeath of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent. <sup>3</sup> Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear." <sup>4</sup> And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines. And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.

<sup>5</sup> And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in

Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven. <sup>6</sup> When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns, <sup>7</sup> and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

Sermon

“Better Late Than Never”

Pastor Ceselsky

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

**We respond to God’s Grace**

Hymn

*O Church Arise*

Getty

O church, arise and put your armor on;  
Hear the call of Christ our captain;  
For now the weak can say that they are strong  
In the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth  
We'll stand against the devil's lies;  
An army bold whose battle cry is “Love!”  
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,  
But to rage against the captor;  
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole  
We will fight with faith and valor.  
When faced with trials on ev'ry side,  
We know the outcome is secure,  
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—  
An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet,  
As the Son of God is stricken;  
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,  
For the Conqueror has risen!  
And as the stone is rolled away,  
And Christ emerges from the grave,  
This vict'ry march continues till the day  
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in ev'ry stride,  
Give grace for ev'ry hurdle,  
That we may run with faith to win the prize  
Of a servant good and faithful.  
As saints of old still line the way,  
Retelling triumphs of His grace,  
We hear their calls and hunger for the day  
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

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

Danish

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

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### **Announcements**

**Easter Tulips** may be ordered again this year. The book to sign up is located in the narthex. The cost is \$10 (please use a pink envelope and label it "Flowers") and the deadline to sign up is NEXT Sunday, March, 15.

**Donations for Pastor Ceselsky to attend General Assembly** may be made using the pink envelopes in the pews – please label the donation as "General Assembly" or "GA" for short.

**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:** Wednesday (March 11) is both Liam Bell and Candy Short's Birthdays and Saturday (March 14) both Ken Dean and Betty Jo Norris' Birthdays.

### **Prayer Requests**

1. Please be in prayer for Rick Willis as he sees an orthopedic surgeon tomorrow. Please pray that they will be able to discern, and treat the cause of Rick's knee pain.
2. Please be in prayer for George Johnson's family in Israel. Jesse, George's grand-nephew has been recalled into the Army and is currently deployed to the border with Lebanon. George's grand-niece, Annalee, has been stranded in Thailand, while the rest of the family has repeatedly been forced to go to bomb shelters.
3. We give thanks for the success of both of Jack Wickham's eye procedures.
4. Please continue to be in prayer for the Andrade family as they rejoice in the birth of Fabiola Atziri Andrade on Tuesday. Please pray for Angela as she recovers and also pray for Noe, Tatiana, Naomi, Daniella, and Damian.
5. Please continue to be in prayer for Pastor Ceselsky's mother as she is now in rehab to try to recover from a recent painful hip injury. Please pray as well for the Lord to bring her into a saving relationship with Himself.
6. Missions Prayer Request for the Week: The Chesapeake Presbytery – Please be in prayer for our local presbytery as we meet this Tuesday. Please pray that the Lord would be pleased to our labors for the growth and perfecting of His Kingdom here in the Greater Baltimore region.
7. Please continue to be in prayer for those in our congregation who have on-going health concerns: Evelyn King, Betty Jo Norris, Robert Willis (Rick's brother) & Ken Wilson.
8. 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<br>Children – Rooms 16-17<br>Adults – Room 11                                    |
|             | 10:30 AM | Lord's Day Worship Service                                                                                  |
| Tuesday:    | 5:30 PM  | Bell Choir Practice – Room 28                                                                               |
|             | 7:00 PM  | Session Meeting – John's Office                                                                             |
| Wednesday:  | 10:30 AM | Women's Bible Study – Rooms 15-16<br>(Please prepare pages 110-115 of the Chronological Guide to the Bible) |
|             | 6:00 PM  | Choir Practice – Rooms 26-27                                                                                |
| Saturday:   | 11:00 AM | Memorial Service for Joyce Donohue (with luncheon to follow)                                                |
| NEXT Sunday | 9:00 AM  | Sunday School for all ages<br>Children – Rooms 16-17<br>Adults – Room 11                                    |
|             | 10:30 AM | Lord's Day Worship Service                                                                                  |

### Coming Soon

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday Worship Service – Loch Raven Presbyterian Church  
Friday, April 3 at 7:00 PM – Good Friday 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

**Women's Care Ministry:** Christine Clark, Debbie DeFord, Judi Mason, Fran Oswinkle, & Jeanne Williams (Moderator)

### Sermon Notes

Date: March 8, 2026

Text: 1 Samuel 13:1-7

Sermon Title: "Better Late Than Never"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: Saul's reign challenges God's people to walk in faithfulness.

Main Point 1: Saul's Reign. (v. 1)

Point 1: Saul's Common Record.

Point 2: Saul's Age.

Point 3: Saul's Short Reign.

Main Point 2: “Saul’s” Victory.

Point 1: Saul’s Troops. (v. 2)

Point 2: Saul’s Son. (v. 3)

Point 3: Saul’s Stench. (v. 4a)

Point 4: Saul’s “Retreat.” (v. 4b)

Main Point 3: Serious Consequences.

Point 1: Philistia’s Troops. (v. 5)

Point 2: Israel’s Fear. (vv. 6-7a)

Point 3: Saul’s Stand. (v. 7b)