

**VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH**

*Clay Staggs,  
Leading Elder*

*Sunday Liturgy  
September 3  
Anno Domini 2023*

*The Fourteenth  
Sunday  
After Pentecost*



For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

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**Reflections**

With all the passion of which I am capable, I urge you to consider the situation. The life of Adam is precarious in the extreme. We are threatened at every turn by disease, crime, loss, accident, intrusion, insanity, and terror, what is even worse, we are threatened by condemnation—exposure of what we really are, rejection by those whose love we most need, ultimate abandonment by God Himself. Humanly speaking, this is our inheritance.

Paul says that this is what we have narrowly escaped! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is our judge, has come to our rescue. He has quite literally appeared on the human scene with divine power to save. It is an unparalleled drama of desperate peril and miraculous deliverance—and it is not only my story but it is your story.

Yielding to Him, trusting in Him, is the way. I pray that you will not entrust yourselves to any of the fraudulent saviors. There is only one Savior who was not born into the dominion of Adam. Only one. That one man, Jesus Christ—He only is able to redeem us for a life free from the dominion of Sin and Death. In Him alone, in that one man alone, is joy, peace, deliverance, and a safe homecoming. In Him only. In him alone. *That one man.*

That one name.  
Jesus Christ.

Fleming Rutledge  
From a Sermon, *That One Man*

He is the Way.  
Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;  
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.  
Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;  
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.  
Love Him in the World of the Flesh;  
And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.

W. H. Auden  
from *For The Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*

Christianity is not the sacrifice we make, but the sacrifice we trust; not the victory we win, but the victory we inherit.”

P.T. Forsyth

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**Call to Worship:** from Psalm 103:1-5

**Leader:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is in me, bless His Holy Name.

**People:** **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's**

**Leader:** Come now, and worship the Lord.

**Hymn of Praise:** Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we  
Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, ho - ly Spir - it,  
Spare Thy peo - ple, Lord, we pray, by a thou - sand  
Hark, the loud ce - les - tial hymn an - gel cho - irs a -  
Lo, the a - po - sto - lic train join Thy sa - cred

7  
bow be - fore You; All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,  
three we name You; while in ess - ence on - ly One,  
snares sur - roun - ded. Keep us free from sin to - day;  
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim  
name to hal - low; pro - phets swell the glad re - frain,

13  
all in hea - ven a - bove a - dore You. In - fin - ite Thy  
un - div - i - ded God, we claim You, and, a - dor - ing we  
ne - ver let - us be - con - found. All my trust I  
in un - ceas - ing chor - us prais - ing, fill the heav - ens with  
and the white - robed mar - tyr's fol - low; and from morn - to

19  
vast do - main, e - ver - last - ing is Thy reign.  
bend the knee while we sing this mys - ter y.  
place in Thee. Ne - ver, Lord, a - ban - don me.  
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
set of sun, through the church this song goes on:

Ending refrain:

25  
"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"

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## **Prayer of Praise and the Lord's Prayer**

### **Confession of Sin**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:3-8-10

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Corporate Confession of Sin**

**Holy Lord, I have sinned times without number and been guilty of pride and unbelief. I have followed my own mind and not your word. I have neglected to seek you in my daily life. My sins and transgressions present a list of accusations against me, all of which are true. Cover my rap sheet with the blood of Jesus, and clothe my soul in His righteousness by the work of Your Spirit, change me into the image of Your dear Son, in whose name we pray, Amen.**

### **Silent Reflection and Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon and the Peace of God:** Genesis 3:21; Hebrews 9:22

And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Leader: Christian, through the mercy of God who gives us both the needed grace and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and you are at peace with God.

**People: All thanks and glory to God!**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **Collection of Tithes & Offerings**

**And Hymn of Response:**

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

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## Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Words and Music by  
Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauflin,  
Matt Merker and Matt Papa

Steadily ♩ = 76

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, corresponding to three different verses. The first system includes the tempo marking 'Steadily ♩ = 76' and a series of chords: F, F, FSUS, F, FSUS, F, C, CSUS. The second system includes chords: F, C/E, Dm, Bb, F/C, C, F. The third system includes chords: Am, Dm, Gm7, F/A, Bb. The fourth system includes chords: F/C, C7, Dm, Bb, F/C, C7, F. The lyrics for the first verse are: '1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-lone, Christ a-lone. What is our grace and good-ness known? God is good, God is good. Where is his ward will hea-ven bring? Ev-er-last-ing life with him. There we will days with-in his hand? What comes, a-part from his com-mand? And what will faith when fears a-rise? Who stands a-bove the storm-y trial? Who sends the rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be de-stroyed, And we will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand. waves that bring us nigh Un-to the shore, the rock of Christ? feast in end-less joy, When Christ is ours for-ev-er-more.'

### Presentation of Tithes and Offertory Prayer

Hymn: Doxology

Affirmation of Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

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**Leader:** Christian, what do you believe concerning God's Eternal Decree?

**People:** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of the Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all  
things were made.**

**Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life;  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Hymn of Response:** Gloria Patri

**Prayer of Intercession**

**Hymn of Preparation:** The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Music on the next page.)

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## The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. The first system starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'The King of love my shep - herd is, Whos / Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my / Per - verse and fool - ish, oft I strayed, but / In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with'. The second system starts with a measure rest of 5 measures, followed by a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'good - ness fail - eth ne - ver. I no - thing lack if / rans - omed soul He lead - eth; and where the ver - dant / yet in love He sought me; and on His shoul - der / There, dear Lord, be - side me; Thy rod and staff my'. The third system starts with a measure rest of 11 measures, followed by a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'I am His, and He is mine for - ev - er. / pas - tures grow, with food cel - est - ial feed - eth. / gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me. / com - fort still, Thy cross be fore to guide me.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

5.  
Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
Thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And oh, what transport of delight  
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6.  
And so through all the length of days,  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever.

### The Preaching of the Word

**Scripture:** Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with

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steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

For he knows our frame, he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**Leader:** The grass withers, the flower fades,

**People:** **But the Word of our God will stand forever!**

**Sermon:** **Covered by Jesus**

Rev. Todd Gothard

**The Sacrament of Communion**

**Distribution of the Bread**

**Prayer**

**Distribution of Wine**

**Prayer**

**The Giving of Peace**



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**Pastor:** May the peace of Christ be with you!  
**People:** **And also with you!**

**Closing Hymn:** All My Ways Are Known To You

In days of peace and days of rest, in times of loss and  
No trial has come be-yond Your hand, no step I walk be-  
I do not fear the fi-nal night for death will be the  
lone-li-ness. Though rich or poor, Your word is true that  
yond Your plan. The path is dark out-side my view, still  
door to life. You take my hand and lead me through for  
all my ways are known to You. And oh, what peace that  
all my ways are known to You.  
all my ways are known to You.  
I have found wher-ev-er I may be. For all my ways are  
known to You. Hal-le-lu-jah they are known to You!

**Benediction:** Hebrews 13:20-21

**Pastor:** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

And God's people said:

**All:** **Amen!**