

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BAD AXE (EST. 1878)

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

FAITHFUL TO THE SCRIPTURES

TRUE TO THE REFORMED FAITH

OBEDIENT TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

Lord's Day 9

March 1, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

Death, Taxes, & the Imago Dei



The Tribute Money (c. 1610)

Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1615)

WELCOME

Grace to you and peace,

On behalf of the elders, deacons, and all the saints: Welcome to **First Presbyterian Church of Bad Axe**. We are pleased that you are here with us today to worship our Triune God. This bulletin contains a liturgy which will guide you through our worship services. We invite you to join us after the service for coffee, snacks, and fellowship. Here's a bit of info about who we are and what we believe:

We are a Christian Church: Thus, we believe in the Holy Trinity: One God, in three persons: The Eternal Father, the Eternally-Begotten Son, and the Eternally-Proceeding Holy Spirit. As Christians, we confess the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3) as codified in the ancient creeds and confessions of the Church: The Apostles' Creed (2nd century), the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (AD 381), the Definition of Chalcedon (AD 451) and the Athanasian Creed (5th century).

We are a Protestant Church: As Protestants, we trace our beliefs and practices to the Apostolic Church, but we also have historical roots in the Protestant Reformation of the 16th and 17th centuries. As Protestants, we believe in the authority of the inspired Holy Scriptures over unbiblical traditions. Protestants also believe that salvation is by God's *grace alone*, through *faith alone*, in *Christ alone*, for the *glory of God alone* (Eph. 2:8–10).

We are a Reformed Church: Reformed Churches come from different regions, mostly in Western Europe, during the Protestant Reformation. These churches believe and confess the doctrinal summaries of the Holy Scriptures that arose from that time period. Our tradition comes from the Scottish and English Reformations; thus, we believe and confess the Westminster Standards, written in England during the 1640's.

We are a Presbyterian Church: Presbyterians believe that the biblical form of Church government is through called, trained, tested, elected, and ordained elders. In the Greek New Testament, elders are called *presbyters*, which is where the name "Presbyterian" comes from. Our Teaching Elder preaches and teaches, and our Ruling Elders come alongside of him to shepherd, lead, keep the Church from false doctrine, and make decisions on her behalf. We also have called, trained, tested, elected, and ordained deacons who take care of the material needs of the Church.

Reformed Presbyterian Churches hold the public worship of God in high esteem. Thus, our **Lord's Day Worship Services** are the most important events of the week. During this time, we gather together to hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), pray, praise, and enjoy Christian fellowship. If you have any questions, feel free to connect with me, or with one of our elders or deacons.

Soli Deo Gloria,

ANNOUNCEMENTS: CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EVENTS

THIS LORD'S DAY:

- 9:55 Announcements & Prelude
10:00 Morning Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer
11:15 Fellowship: Coffee, Tea, & Snacks
11:45 Sunday School
1:00 Courtney Manor Service
5:00 Evening Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer

THIS WEEK:

Lenten Devotions – Our Wednesday night Lenten Devotions continue on Wednesday night at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

Theology Thursday: Presbyterianism 101 – Our New Members' and Presbyterian Refresher class continues on Thursday at 6:00 PM in the Lounge. All are welcome! This week's topic: "We Are Catholic & Orthodox: The Holy Trinity."

Tabletalk – Get your March edition of Tabletalk, it's on the table in the narthex. This month's topic: "The Church in the Wilderness."

Birthdays & Anniversaries –

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

St. Patrick's Day Dinner – Our St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held after our PM service on Sunday, March 15th. Service begins at 5:00 PM and the feast at 6:15. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Ladies Night –

Right to Life Annual Benefit Dinner – “Focus on Life” with special guest speaker, Haili Gusa. She is the Speaking and Training Coordinator of Protect Life Michigan. If you are going to attend the Dinner, please sign up on the bulletin board by next Sunday (March 9). We’d like to get at least eight people to sign up so that the church can purchase a table.

Great Lakes Reformed Conference 2026 – Hosted by Oakland Hills Community Church (OPC), this year’s conference is on Saturday, March 21 beginning at 9:00 AM. This year’s speaker is Dr. J.V. Fesko, who will be giving lectures titled, “Wisdom: Guidance for the Journey.” The church will be paying for the tickets, so let us know if you going by signing up!

Men’s Breakfast – Men of the church: Join us on Saturday, March 28th for breakfast, fellowship, sharpening, and prayer. Kitchen opens at 8:00 AM, breakfast begins at 9:00. Sign-up and show up.

Palm Sunday Brunch – Our annual Palm Sunday Brunch will be held after our AM Service on Sunday, March 29th.

Backyard BBQ and Worship Service – If you are interested in hosting one of our Sunday BBQs and outdoor worship services in April through September, you can find the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Maundy Thursday – Our Maundy Thursday Feast and worship service will be held on Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Good Friday – Our Good Friday Service is on Friday, April 3rd at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN NEED OF PRAYER: Ann Armstrong, Mark & Michelle Green, Julia Mayes, and Lisa Schember; those who serve as caretakers; all who are ill or traveling; long-term care residents: Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart, and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); for those who have ceased attending public worship, that God would reveal to them the necessity of worship on the Lord's Day and fellowship with the saints.

OUR MISSIONARIES: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker, the Kawachis (France), the Nachtergaeles (Belgium), the Shupes (British Colombia), and the Wilsons (Middle East), as they work as ambassadors of the King for the advancement of the Gospel of his Kingdom; that we would be missionaries by sharing the gospel and inviting people to our church; that God would grant courage and the words to speak as we interact with family and friends; that we would not be ashamed of sharing the gospel, but always ready to provide a defense for the hope that is within us.

OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRIES: That the work of the Session, Diaconate, Sunday School program, Missions Committee, and of all the saints would glorify God and be Great Commission-focused; that our service would edify the church and facilitate growth; that we would remain vigilant and faithful to the Word of God and our denominational standards; that our Sunday school classrooms would be full; for the peace and purity of our church; that members would take their vows seriously and attend church regularly; that God would be glorified and we would be sanctified as we worship him.

OUR COUNTRY: That the civil magistrate would rule with justice and uphold laws; that they would protect and encourage the good and punish the evil; for our local, county, state, and federal civil servants; for the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches; that our leaders in government would come to know Christ: The King of kings and Lord of lords, and that their governance would demonstrate that knowledge; that Christians in the United States would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives; that Christians would direct others to God in the way that we live as salt and light.

THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL: That the Kingdom of God on earth would advance through the preaching of the gospel throughout the world; for Christians who are being persecuted and martyred: that they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ and that their persecutors would be converted through this witness. This month we pray for Christians living under heavy Islamic persecution in Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan.

PRELUDE & SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Be Thou My Vision”

Slane | *Traditional Irish Melody*

Almighty God, who alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, together with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Collect | *For the Mind of Christ*

In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

The Preacher to the Hebrews | *Hebrews 1:2–3*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

St. Paul | *Colossians 1:15–19*

God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

The Holy Prophet Moses | *Genesis 1:27*

God created man...after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures...Mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

The Westminster Divines | *Shorter Catechism 10, 19*

Those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

St. Paul | *Romans 8:29*

He has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature.

St. Peter | *2 Peter 1:4*

We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

St. Paul | *2 Corinthians 3:18*

Seek the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God...For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God...Put to death what is earthly in you...for you have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

St. Paul | *Colossians 3:1, 3, 5, 10*

Sanctification is a work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled...to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

The Westminster Divines | *Shorter Catechism 35*

He said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." He said to them, "Then render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

The Lord Jesus Christ | *Luke 20:23–25*

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but live as servants of God.

St. Peter | *1 Peter 2:12–16*

~ THE DIVINE SERVICE ~

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*GOD'S GREETING

1 Corinthians

1:2-3

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm

95

*PSALM OF ENTRANCE

1 – All People That on Earth Do

Dwell

*RESPONSORIAL

from Psalm 95 &

124:5

Minister: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our Salvation!

†Congregation: **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
and give thanks to the LORD.**

Minister: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

†Congregation: **For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
the sheep of his hand.**

Minister: Our help is in the Name of the LORD!

†Congregation: **Who made heaven and earth!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW

Exodus

20:1–7

Minister: The Word of God is living and active.

†Congregation: **Sharper than any two-edged sword.**

EXPOSITION OF THE LAW

Westminster Larger

Catechism

Minister: What is the third commandment?

†Congregation: **The third commandment is,**

**“Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;
for the Lord will not hold him guiltless
that taketh his name in vain”**

Minister: What are the sins forbidden in the third commandment?

†Congregation: **The sins forbidden in third commandment are:**

**The misuse of God’s name as required;
and the abuse of it in ignorant, vain, irreverent,
profane, superstitious, or wicked use of it,
with respect to his titles, attributes, ordinances, or
works,
by blasphemy, perjury, sinful cursing, false oaths or
vows,
misapplying, murmuring, or quarreling at
God’s decrees and providences;
misinterpreting, misapplying, or perverting the Word;
maintaining false doctrines;**

**maligning, scorning, reviling, or opposing God's truth,
his grace, or any of his ways or means;
making a false or hypocritical profession of faith;
being ashamed of, or bringing shame to God's name,
by an unwise, unfruitful, or offensive way of life,
or backsliding from his commands.**

Minister: Christian, have you done this perfectly and perpetually?

†Congregation: **No, for as the Apostle Paul says,**

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

and as the Apostle John also writes,

“If we say we have no sin,

we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION

Book of

Common Prayer

Almighty and most merciful Father,

We have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our hearts.

We have offended against Your holy laws.

We have left undone things which we ought to have done;

and we have done things which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.

Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent;

according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus.

Grant that we may hence live a godly, righteous, and sober life;

to the glory of His name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 1:9; Colossians

1:13–14

*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

103 – Holy God, We Praise Your

Name

OUR OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Teaching Elder, Rev. Scott

McDermand

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

THE WEEKLY OFFERING

Deuteronomy 10:12, 14,

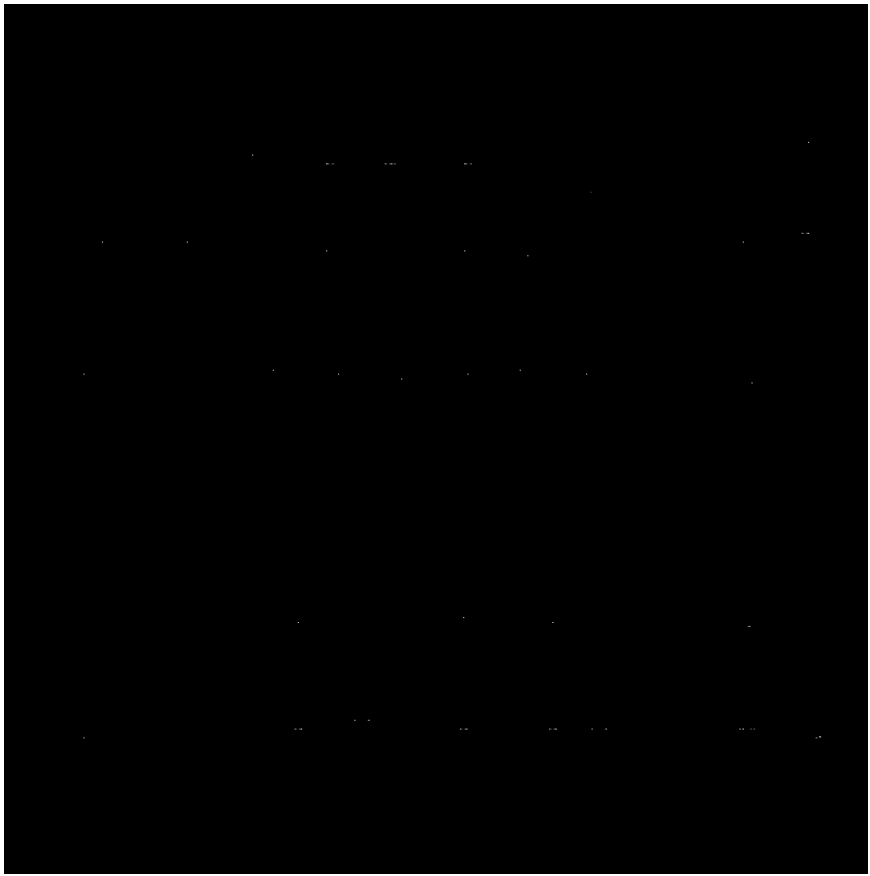
17

Serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul...Behold, to the LORD your God belongs heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth and all that is in it...For the LORD your God is God of

God and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, he is not partial, and he takes no bribe.

*THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

Doxology



THE SERMON

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT

Luke

20:19–26

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

†Congregation: **But the Word of our God stands forever!**

SERMON

The Gospel According to

Luke:

Passion Week: Death, Taxes, & the Imago Dei

SERMON NOTES

DEATH: THE PLOT & THE TEST

TAXES: WHOSE IMAGE?

THE IMAGO DEI: RENDER UNTO GOD WHAT IS GOD'S

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

and Let It Be

585 – Take My Life,

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

CONFESSION OF FAITH

NICENE CREED (AD 381)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his 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 both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we 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 worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

COMMUNION HYMN

295 – Crown Him with Many

Crowns

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum Corda (3rd

Cent.)

Minister: Peace be with you.

†Congregation: **And also, with you!**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

†Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

†Congregation: **It is good and right for us to give thanks.**

Minister: Let us pray to the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Luke

22:17–20

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

*THE LORD'S SUPPER

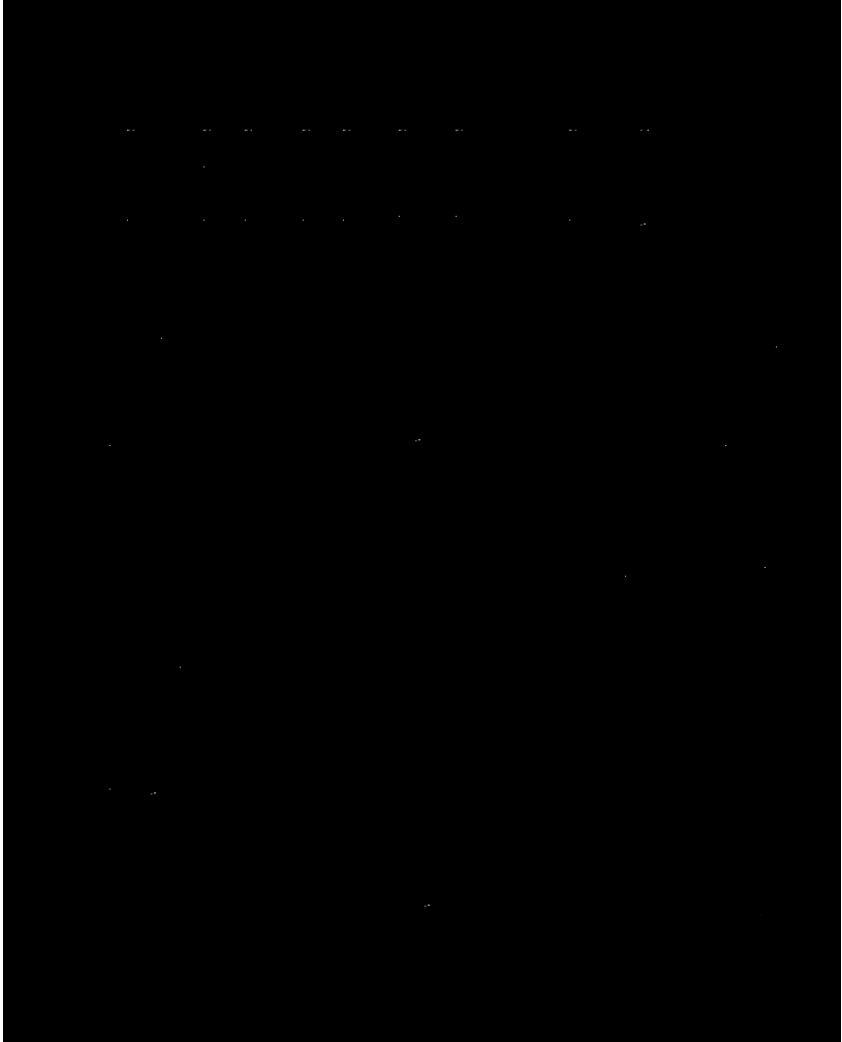
PRAYER OF APPLICATION

DOXOLOGY & BENEDICTION

*DOXOLOGY

Gloria

Patri



*BENEDICTION

Numbers

6:24–26

*POSTLUDE

EVENING WORSHIP: **CATECHETICAL SERVICE (5:00 PM)**

PRELUDE

"How Great Thou Art"

O Store Gud

Stuart K. Hine (1949)

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

Although they that are regenerate, and believe in Christ, be delivered from the moral law as a covenant of works, so as thereby they are neither justified nor condemned: yet, beside the general uses thereof common to them with all men, it is of special use to show them how much they are bound to Christ his fulfilling it, and enduring the curse thereof in their stead and for their good; and thereby to provoke them to more thankfulness, and to express the same in their greater care to conform themselves thereunto as the rule of their obedience.

The Westminster Divines | *WLC 97, "What special use is there of the moral law to the regenerate?"*

The third or normative use of the law...serves the regenerate, not as a means of justification, but as a norm that defines the way of righteousness. Christians are to be zealous for good works...If we are created in Christ Jesus for good works, we must know what a good work is. The moral law provides us with our inspired and infallible definition. The culture wants to reduce ethics to a vague notion of love. Yet we're told the Word: "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. What are the commandments? The precepts of the moral law.

Keith Mathison| *The Three Uses of the Law*

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which god prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

St. Paul| *Ephesians 2:8–10*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GREETING *1 Peter*

1:1b–2

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm*

119

*PSALM OF PRAISE *151 –*

Jehovah's Perfect Law

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

READING & RESPONSES

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Psalm*

1

CONFESSONAL STATEMENT *WCF 19.6 – Of the Law of*

God

Although true believers be not under the law, as a covenant of works,
to be thereby justified or condemned;
yet it is of great use to them, as well as to others;
in that, as a rule of life informing them of the will of God,
and of their duty,
it directs and binds them to walk accordingly;
discovering the sinful pollutions of their nature, hearts, and lives;

so as, examining themselves thereby,
they may come to further conviction of,
humiliation for, and hatred against sin,
together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ,
and the perfection of his obedience.

*PSALM OF RESPONSE

558 – *That Man Is Blest Who,*

Fearing God

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Titus

3:1–8

SERMON

Of the

Law of God: The Normative Use

SERMON NOTES

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF APPLICATION

150 – *The Law of God Is Good and*

Wise

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles'

Creed

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum

Corda

Minister: Peace be with you.

†Congregation: **And also, with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

†Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

†Congregation: **It is good and right for us to give thanks.**

Minister: Let us pray to the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians

11:23–26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*DOXOLOGY

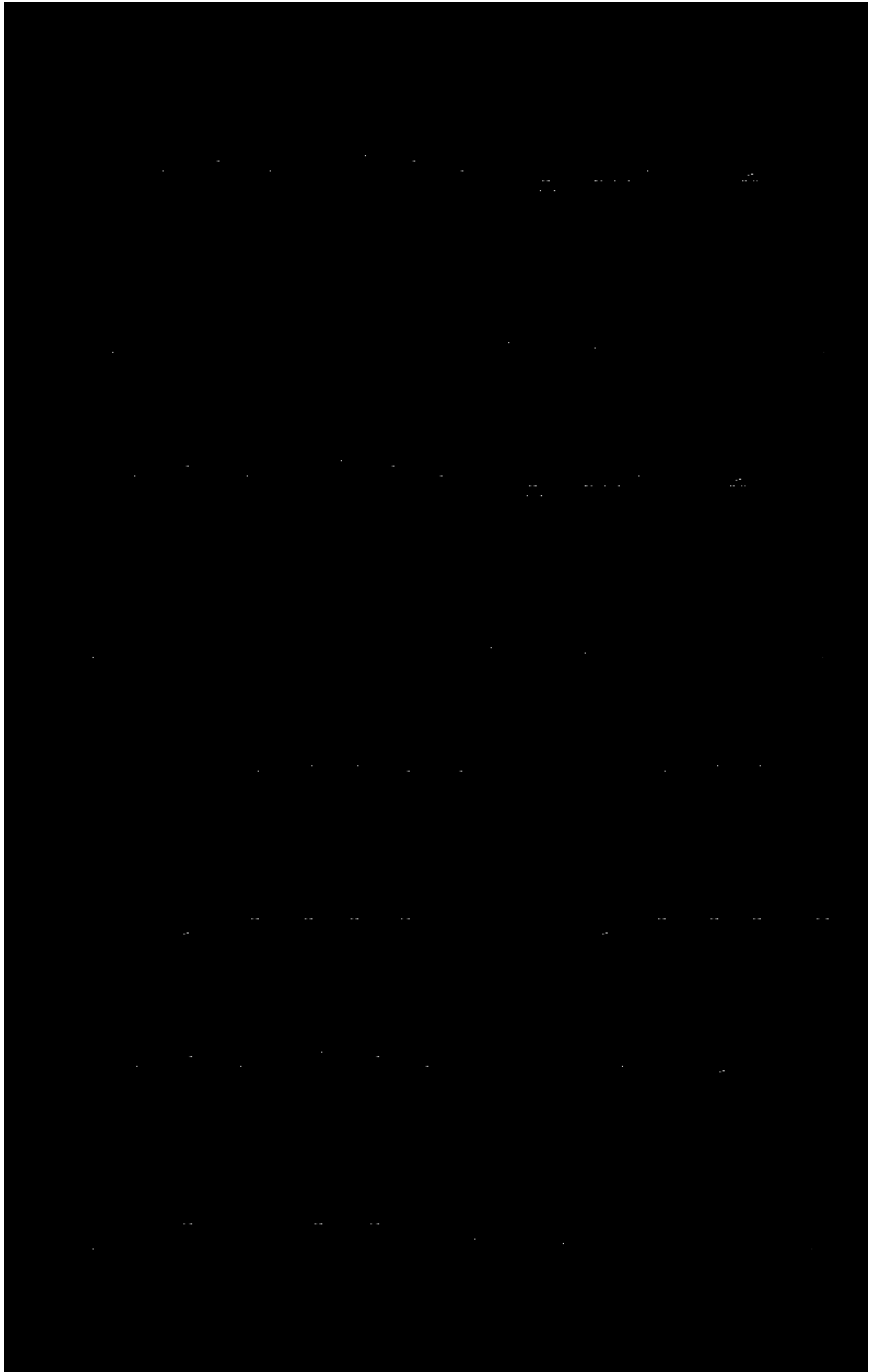
11 – Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

(1, 2)

*BENEDICTION

Hebrews

13:20–21



~ DAILY LITURGY ~

{FOR FAMILY OR PERSONAL DEVOTION}

*“His delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.”*

(Psalm 1:2)

GLORIA PATRI

OPENING PSALM

OPENING PRAYER

CONFESSION OF SIN

CONFESSION OF FAITH

OLD TESTAMENT READING

APPLICATION

HYMN OR PSALM

NEW TESTAMENT READING

APPLICATION

HYMN OR PSALM

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

EXTENDED PRAYER LIST

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstance;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

For the health of: Ann Armstrong (cancer), Mark & Michelle Green, Tom & Julia Mayes, and Lisa Schember; for all those who serve as caretakers in our congregation; for those who are ill; and for those who are traveling. **For those living in long-term care facilities:** Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); that our shut-in ministry would be fruitful and that our members would participate. **For non-attending members:** that God would reveal to them their sin and grant them an understanding of the necessity of public worship and the means of grace; that by his Spirit, he would bring them back to the body of Christ so that they would not forsake the communion of the saints and the public worship on the Lord’s Day for his glory and their edification. **For Visitors:** That God would continue to bring in families, couples, and individuals who seek to glorify him and grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Praise for recent visitors and that they would consider membership here in our local body of Christ. **For our Families:** that husbands would love their wives as Christ loves the Church and that wives would submit to their husbands as the Church submits to Christ. That parents would take seriously their duty to raise and train their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. That fathers would bring their families to Church. That parents would bring their children to Sunday School every Lord’s Day. That children would obey their parents and show respect to authorities in the home, church, and society. **For our singles and divorced:** that they would devote themselves to the Lord and to the ministries of the Church; and that God would grant marriage to those who desire it. **For our widows:** that the Lord would provide support and fellowship through the church; that they would devote themselves to Christ and serve His body. **For our College Students:** Regan Hobkirk and Hailee McLeod; that they would glorify God in their studies; that they would attend a local church on the Lord’s Day; and that God would grant them vocational clarity. **For Family Members & Friends of our Church:** for the physical and spiritual health of: Amanda & Jack Armstrong (Ann’s niece and brother: cancer); Linda Dumaw (Bonnie Perry, Judy Stokan, and Sharon Carpenter’s friend); Tom Fata (Annette Knapp’s brother: colon cancer); Virginia Gembarski (Sharon Gisel’s sister: Leukemia); Libby Hill and Nancy McLeod (Allan McLeod’s aunt and sister-in-law); Marge Mauer (Bonnie Perry’s friend: stroke, surgery); Nicole Patterson (Gina’s daughter: seizures); Cecil Shuart (friend of the McLeod’s); Bob Ziel (Kim’s father: Courtney Manor).

For all of our ministries: for faithfulness in our ordained officers; Elders: the ability to lead and shepherd their flocks; Diaconate: strength and energy; Trustees: wisdom and a view for the Great Commission; Sunday School program: faithful attendance,

growth, and discipleship; Sunday School teachers: knowledge and joy; Missions Committee: participation in local missions and outreach; for a stronger local outreach; Men's and Women's ministry: better participation and being a blessing to us and to others. That those who participate in these various ministries would be blessed as they humbly serve for the glory of God; that these ministries would facilitate growth in the grace and knowledge Christ and be fruitful; that God would raise up and send more faithful men to lead and serve and act like men; that we would be faithful in obedience to the Holy Scriptures, the Westminster Standards, and the Book of Church Order; that God would continue to bless our Church with more families, couples, and individuals who desire to glorify God, grow in Christ, and serve in our Church's ministries. **For our worship services:** That the Holy Spirit would work through the Ministry of the Word, Sacraments, and prayer for the salvation, sanctification, and preservation of God's people; that through these ordinary means, we would be built up in the faith once and for all delivered to the saints; that we would worship God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength; that Christ and him crucified would be preached faithfully, week in and week out; that the gospel would go forth and people would be brought into this local body; that God would send or raise up more musicians and singers to serve him with their gifts, especially a second pianist so that our pianist would be able to receive days of rest; that our giving would increase and be congruent with the blessings that God blessed us with; that we would properly sanctify the Lord's Day and attend to the means of grace; that our members would have a higher view of the Lord's Day and that this would be evident in the fruit of their attendance of our AM and PM services.

OUR PRESBYTERY:

University Reformed Church, East Lansing MI: TEs Jason (Leah) Helopoulos, Nate (Sarah) Groelsema, Nick (Emma) Settington, Kevin (Rachel) McAlvey, and Dave (Amity) Hinkley – Pray for the Preisers as Alyssa has recently started treatment for breast cancer, and for faith and endurance to wait on and trust the Lord through this trial. Pray for wisdom as we roll out a 60th anniversary campaign here in 2026, and for generous and gracious hearts for the congregation. **TE Del Belcher** – This week Del is traveling to Cartagena, Colombia to offer seminars for the Presbyterian churches there: Intro to Theological Studies and Intro to Christian Philosophy & Christian Worldview Studies. He has also been invited to offer three seminars concerning the Christian Family. Please pray for the Presbyterian churches in Colombia not to compromise their Reformed theological convictions. In April, he will be traveling and teaching at SRL Medellin, Colombia. **Great Lakes Presbytery:** Praise the Lord for his continued faithfulness to our Presbytery. May he continue to lavish his grace upon us to raise up more faithful ministers, plant more faithful churches, and remain steadfast in faithfully preaching his holy, inerrant, authoritative, and sufficient Word.

OUR COMMUNITY & COUNTRY:

That in our community, we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ, ready to give a defense of the gospel and the hope that is in us. (1 Peter 3:15) That we would be lights in a dark place, salt in a flavorless world, a city on a hill. That there would be a need for church planting Reformed Churches in the Thumb; for wisdom, provision, and buy-in regarding the starting a Christian School. That our local, state, and federal civil magistrates would lead, rule, make and enforce laws according to Scripture; that our state and federal laws would protect rather than allow for the destruction of the unborn. That all of our leaders would bend the knee to Christ and his Rule. For the protection of our armed forces, veterans, law enforcement, doctors, nurses, EMTs and all others serving in dangerous vocations, domestically and abroad. **That the Church in the United States** would live according to God's Word and for his glory. That Christians would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives, setting an example for non-believers and bringing glory to God. That our lives and good works would bring God glory and direct others to him and his kingdom. That we would lose influence and the ability to witness because of hypocrisy in the church. That we would all "kiss the Son, lest he be angry." (Psalm 2) That God would raise up leaders who seek to bring him glory as they serve on behalf of the community, county, state, and federal levels. For the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches in our country. For the Church's protection from government overreach and that the right to gather and worship would be protected regardless of the circumstances. That the Church in the United States would grow and thrive from a robust preaching of the Gospel and the whole counsel of God. That God would remove dead branches from the true church as well as false churches who teach things contrary to Word of God or preach a false gospel. That he would be glorified in all of this.

OUR MISSIONARIES & THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH:

Pray for all of our missionaries: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker (Zambia), the Kawachi's (France), the Nachtergaele's (Belgium), and the Wilsons (Middle East), and the Shupes (Canada). This month, we pray in particular for the Nachtergaele's in Belgium. For our congregation: that we would be missionaries in our own contexts by inviting and bringing our family, friends, and neighbors to participate in the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and learning that our Church offers. As Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." That our new Missions budget would be a blessing to our foreign missionaries and facilitate more local outreach. **For persecuted Christians** throughout the world who are suffering because of the Cross. That they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, even unto death, and that their persecutors would be converted through their witness. This month we pray in particular for Christians living under Islamic oppression and persecution in Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan.

INFORMATION & STATISTICS

THE SESSION

Wayne Copeland	Ruling Elder, Missions
Chris Fluegge	Ruling Elder, Trustee
Scott McDermand	Teaching Elder, Moderator
Jim Philp	Ruling Elder, Clerk, Trustee
Kim Ziel	Ruling Elder

THE DIACONATE

Bob Hobkirk	Board Member, Trustee
Allan McLeod	Board Member
Scott McDermand	Advisory Board Member, Moderator
Sharon Carpenter	Diaconal Assistant
Dan Clarkson	Diaconal Assistant
Greg Davis	Diaconal Assistant
Linda Herndon	Diaconal Assistant
Carol Holtrop	Diaconal Assistant, Secretary
Lori McLeod	Diaconal Assistant
Alex Smith	Diaconal Assistant

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: FEBRUARY 8TH

AM Service	61
AM Livestream	
AM AVG. (2026)	66
AM AVG (2025)	65
PM Service	9
PM Livestream	--
PM AVG. 2025	10
PM AVG. 2024	17

GENERAL FUND GIVING

February Giving	\$
February Budget	\$

