

1 SAMUEL

**THE ARK:
CAPTURED
AND
RETURNED**



1 SAMUEL 4:1-11; 5:1-7, 6:13-21, 7:1-4



TRINITY
Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | August 27, 2023

Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.

Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.

SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

Ancient Of Days

CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 24:1-6 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Psalm 145:14-18 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

Holy, Holy, Holy

PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Abide

We Will Dwell

CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the New City Catechism:

- Q. 34. Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?
- A. Yes, because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, also renews us by his Spirit; so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; so that we may be assured of our faith by the fruits; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS' DISMISSAL (Infants - 5th Graders)

Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.

GREETING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | David Springer, *Director of Campus Outreach*

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING | Mercy Fund Offering

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

God With Us

BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,
both now and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Samuel 4:1-11; 5:1-7, 6:13-21, 7:1-4

Title: The Ark: Captured and Returned

Teacher: David Springer

4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. 2 The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. 3 And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies." 4 So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. 5 As soon as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. 6 And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" And when they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp, 7 the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "A god has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. 8 Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. 9 Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight." 10 So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. 11 And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. ... 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." ... 6:13 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 unwallled 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. 3 And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” 4 So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only.

GOD'S PRESENCE & POWER

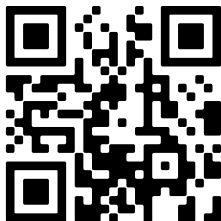
THE ISRAELITES' PRIDE & INDEPENDENCE

HIS PATIENCE & OUR REPENTANCE

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Praise God for His presence and power. Worship Him for His faithfulness in the midst of our unfaithfulness.
2. Consider the ways your life has been marked by independence and idolatry. What do you need to “put away” that may be distracting you from His presence?
3. Thank God for His kindness and mercy and the gift of repentance. Consider the beautiful reality that Jesus has given us eternal and intimate access to the Father.
4. Who in your life is living a life marked by independence and idolatry? Who do you know that desperately needs God’s presence? Pray for them and ask God to send His Spirit.
5. Ask the Spirit to give you a yearning for His presence.

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Tell us about yourself.
Please scan on the QR code to stay connected
And let us know of prayer requests.



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Communication

Visit trinitylakeland.org/events to register.



Middle School Game Night

September 8, 5p

Contact [Brown Peterson](#) for information.



Women's Bible Study - Fall Semester

Starting September 12 & 13.

Contact [JoAnn Johnson](#) for information.



FRAT jr

September 15 - November 15, 6-7:30p.

Contact [Callie Sandman](#) for information.

Community Bible Reading

communitybiblereading.org

August 28 - September 2, 2023

(3-year plan: read [blue](#) passages | 1-year plan: read [all](#))

Monday	Revelation 4 Esther 5	Deuteronomy 18 Ezekiel 39
Tuesday	Revelation 5 Esther 6	Deuteronomy 19 Ezekiel 40
Wednesday	Revelation 6 Esther 7	Deuteronomy 20 Ezekiel 41
Thursday	Revelation 7 Esther 8	Deuteronomy 21 Ezekiel 42
Friday	Revelation 8 Esther 9	Deuteronomy 22 Ezekiel 43
Saturday	Psalm 88	Psalm 36 Psalm 133

Scripture Memory for the Week:

1 Samuel 7:3 (ESV)

3 And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroath from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri | 8:30a - 5:00p

Sunday Worship | 8:45a & 10:30a

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Mission

A city transformed: Loved by God the Father, saved by Jesus His Son,
empowered by His Spirit, called by God to reach our city with His love.