



**Trinity Presbyterian Church of Norman**  
**Service of Worship of the Triune God**

**January 29 2023 10:30-11:45 am**

**Trinitynorman.com**



**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN**

**A Church for Norman**

**Purpose: Glorifying God and Enjoying Him Forever**

**Mission: To gather and perfect the saints of God  
in and beyond Norman, Oklahoma**

**ARP Church Membership Questions:**

1. Do you confess that you are a sinner in the sight of God; that you deserve His punishment; that you are unable to save yourself; and that you are without hope of salvation except for God's love and mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of sinners; and do you receive and trust in Him alone for your salvation?
3. Do you accept the Bible, comprised of the Old and New Testaments, as the written Word of God; that it is the only perfect rule of faith and how to live?
4. Do you promise to trust in the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit so that you can live all of life as a Christian, following the example set by Jesus Christ?
5. Do you promise to exercise faithful stewardship of God's resources entrusted to you for the furtherance of God's Kingdom and purposes?
6. Do you accept that the doctrines and principles of the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church are founded upon the Scriptures?
7. In loving obedience, do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of this church, promising to seek the peace, purity, and prosperity of this congregation as long as you are a member of it?

The theme of the book of Numbers is the journey to the promised land of Canaan. Its opening ten chapters, covering a mere fifty days, describe how Moses organized Israel for the march from Sinai to the promised land. To appreciate their theological significance it is necessary to look backwards to the books of Exodus and Leviticus, as well as forwards to the conquest of Canaan. Exodus tells how God saved Israel from slavery in Egypt, and made a covenant with them at Sinai that he would be their God and that they would be his holy people (Exod. 19). *This covenant relationship meant that God would actually live among them*; Israel was therefore instructed to build a palace suitable for their divine king, the tabernacle. Just a month before Numbers opens, this tabernacle was consecrated and the glory of God descended on it Exodus 40; cf. Numbers 7:1; 9:15

-Gordon Wenham, *Numbers*, (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries).

Based upon the zealous actions of the Levites at Mount Sinai subsequent to the making of the golden calf (Exodus 32:26–29), the tribe of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam was set apart for special service in the Tent of Meeting. No longer would they be required to serve in a military capacity, but they would function as guardians, maintenance personnel, transporters, and intermediary cultic servants for the nation. Thus they were not to be counted among the potential military personnel.

-Dennis Cole, *Numbers*, (New American Commentary Series).

The primary meaning of holy is “separate”. It comes from the ancient word that means “to cut”, or “to separate”. His holiness is also transcendent. The word transcendence means literally “to climb across”. It is defined as “exceeding usual limits”. Transcendence describes God in His consuming majesty, His exalted loftiness.

-R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*.

## Welcome and Statement of Purpose

Silent prayer of preparation. Perhaps utilize prayers and quotes from page two.

### We Come to Worship at His Bidding and Confess Our Sin

*O send out thy light and thy truth that they may lead me, and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling. -Psalm 43:3*

#### Call to Worship

Psalm 96:7-10

*Minister: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!*

**People: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble Before Him, all the earth! Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”**

#### Prayer of Adoration, Invocation, and 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.**

#### Hymn

Holy! Holy! Holy!

#100

#### Reading the Word “For the Children”

Psalm 78

A MASKIL OF ASAPH.

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!  
<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, <sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. <sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. <sup>5</sup> He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, <sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, <sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; <sup>8</sup> and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God. <sup>9</sup> The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle. <sup>10</sup> They did not keep God’s covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. <sup>11</sup> They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them. <sup>12</sup> In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. <sup>13</sup> He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. <sup>14</sup> In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light. <sup>15</sup> He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. <sup>16</sup> He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.  
<sup>17</sup> Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.

<sup>18</sup> They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved. <sup>19</sup> They spoke against God, saying, “Can God spread a table in the wilderness?” <sup>20</sup> He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?”  
<sup>21</sup> Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, <sup>22</sup> because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power. <sup>23</sup> Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven, <sup>24</sup> and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. <sup>25</sup> Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.  
<sup>26</sup> He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind; <sup>27</sup> he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas; <sup>28</sup> he let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings.  
<sup>29</sup> And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved. <sup>30</sup> But before they had satisfied their craving, while the food was still in their mouths, <sup>31</sup> the anger of God rose against them, and he killed the strongest of them and laid low the young men of Israel. <sup>32</sup> In spite of all this, they still sinned; despite his wonders, they did not believe. <sup>33</sup> So he made their days vanish like a breath, and their years in terror. <sup>34</sup> When he killed them, they sought him; they repented and sought God earnestly. <sup>35</sup> They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer. <sup>36</sup> But they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues. <sup>37</sup> Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant. <sup>38</sup> Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath. <sup>39</sup> He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again. <sup>40</sup> How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert! <sup>41</sup> They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel. <sup>42</sup> They did not remember his power or the day when he redeemed them from the foe, <sup>43</sup> when he performed his signs in Egypt and his marvels in the fields of Zoan. <sup>44</sup> He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams. <sup>45</sup> He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them. <sup>46</sup> He gave their crops to the destroying locust and the fruit of their labor to the locust. <sup>47</sup> He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamores with frost. <sup>48</sup> He gave over their cattle to the hail and their flocks to thunderbolts. <sup>49</sup> He let loose on them his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels. <sup>50</sup> He made a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death, but gave their lives over to the plague. <sup>51</sup> He struck down every firstborn in Egypt, the first fruits of their strength in the tents of Ham. <sup>52</sup> Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. <sup>53</sup> He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. <sup>54</sup> And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won. <sup>55</sup> He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents. <sup>56</sup> Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies, <sup>57</sup> but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow. <sup>58</sup> For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols. <sup>59</sup> When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel. <sup>60</sup> He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind, <sup>61</sup> and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe. <sup>62</sup> He gave his people over to the sword and vented his wrath on his heritage. <sup>63</sup> Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song. <sup>64</sup> Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation. <sup>65</sup> Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of wine. <sup>66</sup> And

he put his adversaries to rout; he put them to everlasting shame. <sup>67</sup> He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, <sup>68</sup> but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves. <sup>69</sup> He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever. <sup>70</sup> He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; <sup>71</sup> from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. <sup>72</sup> With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

### ***Public Confession of Sin***

**O God Who hears prayer, teach me to pray. I confess that in religious exercises the language of my lips and the feelings of my heart have not always agreed, that I have frequently taken carelessly upon my tongue a name never pronounced above without reverence and humility, that I have often desired things which would have injured me, that I have erred both on the side of my hopes and also of my fears, that I am unfit to choose for myself, for it is not in me to direct my steps. Let Your Spirit help my infirmities, for I know not what to pray for as I ought. Let Him produce in me wise desires by which I may ask right things, then I shall know that You hear me.**

### ***Private Confession of Sin***

#### ***Words of Assurance***

***Romans 8:1-2***

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

#### **We Receive and Respond to the Gospel with Singing, Speaking Truth, Giving, and Prayers**

**Hymn                      Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah                      #598**

**Confession of Faith                      Westminster Shorter Catechism**

**Q:** What is the chief end of man?

**A:** Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

**Q:** What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

**A:** The word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

**Q:** What do the scriptures principally teach?

**A:** The scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

**Congregational Prayer  
Collection of Tithes and Offerings  
8:9                      Offertory Prayer  
Mr. Ross McClish  
Offering Hymn  
#735**

**2 Corinthians**

**Gloria Patri**

**We Are Blessed to Hear, Receive, and Rest upon God's Word  
Sermon: "The Guardians of God" Numbers 1:47-54**

**Rev. Justin Westmoreland**

(If able, please stand in honor of the reading of God's word.)

### **Levites Exempted**

*47 But the Levites were not listed along with them by their ancestral tribe. 48 For the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 49 "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not list, and you shall not take a census of them among the people of Israel. 50 But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it and shall camp around the tabernacle. 51 When the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down, and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up. And if any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death. 52 The people of Israel shall pitch their tents by their companies, each man in his own camp and each man by his own standard. 53 But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel. And the Levites shall keep guard over the tabernacle of the testimony." 54 Thus did the people of Israel; they did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses.*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**The Proposition: It is necessary that the people of God be guarded from the disaster of appearing before God in an estate of sin.**

- I.            The task of guarding God
- II.          The rationale of guarding God
- III.        The end of guarding God

## Responding to God's Word Preached

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11

Communion Hymn

Come Ye Sinners

#472

Closing Words and Announcements

Hymn of Commitment

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

*The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen!**

Doxology

#731

**Review Questions:** Use these questions personally or in a group to engage further with God's message in the sermon:

1. What are God's reasons for giving the male descendants of Levi these unique tasks and not conscripting them for military service?
2. What were the specific duties assigned by God to the Levites?
3. Do you feel like our society and church today apprehend the transcendent holiness of God?
4. How did David's transport of the Ark in 2 Samuel 6:1-10 encounter problems? How did these problems occur because of their sin against God's decree in Numbers 1:50-54 and 4:1-20? How did God demonstrate his freedom to work apart from regular, ordinary means in that situation?
5. How did 1 Chronicles 15:13-15 demonstrate David's repentance?
6. How do the duties of the Levites bring further revelation to the first promises of the gospel in Genesis 3 and anticipate the fulfillment of those promises in Christ?
7. How does Galatians 3:10 teach us that the system established for the Levites in Numbers 1:47-54 would be insufficient to accomplish God's promise of unbroken fellowship with the Holy God and a holy people together in a holy place?
8. What does the gospel have to say to those who feel too unworthy and excluded to ever enjoy God's holy presence?

## Avenues for Giving

Online giving is at [trinitynorman.com](http://trinitynorman.com) or through the app

By mail: P O Box 6016, Norman, OK 73070.

Today: Ushers will pass plates for tithes and offerings.

## Church Staff, Officers, Leadership

Minister: Rev. Westmoreland, [justinwestmoreland@gmail.com](mailto:justinwestmoreland@gmail.com), 405.568.7000

Elder: John Mantooth, 405.527.2138 (cell), 405.527.2137 (office)

Elder: Cody Wampler, 580.591.6288, [codywampler@gmail.com](mailto:codywampler@gmail.com)

Deacon Chair: Ross McClish, 405.313.4441, [rossmcclish@att.net](mailto:rossmcclish@att.net)

Pastoral Assoc.: Dr. Ryan Bisel, Youth/Fam Min., [rbisel@gmail.com](mailto:rbisel@gmail.com)

Ministry Teams: Todd Tullio, [tullio@pldi.net](mailto:tullio@pldi.net)

Prayer requests or questions: [admin@trinitynorman.com](mailto:admin@trinitynorman.com).

## Gathering and Perfecting the Saints

### Discipleship Ministries:

Sundays

9:30-10:15 a.m.

Adults: *Westminster Confession*

MS/HS: *Catechism*

Kids: *Great Commission Publications*

**Midweek Fellowship** The Standard Wednesday 5:30 -7 p.m.

### Midweek Bible studies

Men's -

Rudy's BBQ

Tuesdays

6:30 a.m.

Women's -

535 E Boyd St.

Thursdays

10:30 a.m.

**Church Luncheon Today - Please join us after worship!**

**Membership Explorers Class: Wednesday**

6-8p.m.

## Read through the Bible Reading Plan

Click the QR code for a link to the plan and to the

Daily Video Commentary Series by Justin.

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