



THE LORD'S DAY

OCTOBER 29, 2023
10:45 A.M.

TO GLORIFY GOD AND ENJOY HIM FOREVER

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome to Riveroaks!

We are glad you are here. May the Lord richly bless you as you worship with us today.

† Stand as you are able.

Please silence your phone as you enter the sanctuary.

Prelude

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Martin Luther/arr. Colin Curtis

*Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all He has done!
Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known, for you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise triumphantly!
O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife, and lead us out of death to life.*

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Abby Spann
Operation Christmas Child

Reflection

I greatly longed to understand Paul's Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, "the justice of God," because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him. Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him. Yet I clung to the dear Paul and had a great yearning to know what he meant.

Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that "the just shall live by his faith." Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the "justice of God" had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. The passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven...

If you have a true faith that Christ is your Savior, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God's heart and will, that you should see pure grace and overflowing love. This it is to behold God in faith that you should look upon his fatherly, friendly heart, in which there is no anger or ungraciousness. He who sees God as angry does not see him rightly but looks only on a curtain, as if a dark cloud had been drawn across his face.

Martin Luther

GOD CALLS

† Call to Worship

Isaiah 33:5-6

The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness!

And he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge;

ALL: The fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure!

† Hymn, No. 358

"For All the Saints"

† Prayer of Praise and Adoration

GOD CLEANSES

Reading of the Word

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

Lord God, you require us to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before you. We confess that we have not loved you, nor loved our neighbor in this way. We repent of this. Grant that your Holy Spirit drives us to seek these things through Christ ...*Silent and Personalized Confession of Sin... Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 1:18-20

Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

† Song of Response

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

*We will feast in the house of Zion, we will sing with our hearts restored,
He has done great things, we will say together, we will feast and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire, He is the Lord, our God.
We are not consumed by the flood; Upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid,
For the promised morning, oh how long, oh God of Jacob, be my strength!

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the faithful One,
And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Supplication

Elder Jim Gibson

His Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
arr. Dan Forrest/Adult Choir

GOD SPEAKS

Sermon Text Preaching of God's Word

Titus 1:1-4
Pastor Tommy Lee

Series: The Living Church In The Midst Of A Dying World

I. This Life We Are Given in Christ

† Hymn of Response, No. 598

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

We Confess Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GOD SENDS

Benediction

from Colossians 1 (verses 13,9,10)

Now may he who has delivered us from the domain of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
fill you with the knowledge of his will, in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him,
bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

**Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

Postlude

Ein feste Burg

Martin Luther/arr. Edmund Shay

* *The Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of Christian belief. As early as the second century it served as a baptismal confession. It developed and reached its current form by the ninth century. It is the most popular creed used in worship by Western Christians. The word "catholic" means universal.*

SERMON NOTES

Scripture: Luke 15:1-24 (page 874)

Sermon Title: This Life We Are Given in Christ

Pastor: Tommy Lee

An Essential Introduction To This Life

This Life That Is For **ALL** Of Life

A Life Entered Into Through **OUR** Savior

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Riveroaks! We are delighted you have joined us for worship this morning. We would love to get to know you and serve you anyway we can. Please consider filling out a visitor's card and putting it in the offering plate or scanning the QR code to access our online visitor form.



*“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” 2 Corinthians 4:5*

Combined Reformation Service Tonight at 6:00pm: Riveroaks will join Hickory Withe Presbyterian Church and other churches at HWPC (2420 Donelson Drive in Eads, TN) for a Reformation Celebration Service. Please bring finger foods to share at the reception following the service.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner (5:30-6:30pm) - This week's meal: Chicken Alfredo \$5 per person (families of 4 or more pay only \$20) Pay by cash or check in person or pay online: <https://rrpc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/category/70697>

Stephen Ministry Training meets Wednesdays at 6:00pm in rooms 114-115. Materials are available in the church office for those already registered. The training course is led by Jim Gibson & Erin Turberville.

Welcome Class! For all who would like to find out more about Riveroaks and explore membership, this is a six-week class meeting on Wednesday nights (November 1, 8, 15) from 6:15 - 7:15pm, in the Parlor. Pastors Tommy and Kyle are leading. Please join us!

Ladies' Christmas Shopping Trip to Charlene's: Saturday, November 4, 2023. We will meet at the church at 8:15am and caravan up to Halls, TN, to spend the day shopping at Charlene's and having lunch in the tea room. Lunch will range from \$15 - \$25. We will target to be back no later than 4:00pm. For more information, contact Holly Walters at 901-828-6885.

Men's Feed Your Faith Breakfast: Saturday morning, November 11 at 8:00am. Sandy Willson, former pastor of Second Presbyterian Church here in Memphis, and current Interim President of The Gospel Coalition will be our guest speaker. Sign up online by November 5: <https://rrpc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1972985>

Visiting Missionaries, Dal and Beth Stanton - MTW Ukraine: The Stantons will be visiting Riveroaks on Sunday, November 12. The missions committee will be hosting a joint Community Group potluck gathering Sunday evening at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall followed by an update by the Stantons. Anyone is welcome to come! Please bring a dish to share. Nursery signup is in the *Riveroaks Weekly*.

Streets Ministries Block Party: Riveroaks is sponsoring a Block Party for Streets Ministries on Thursday, November 16 at their Graham Heights location (1304 N. Graham St. Memphis, TN 38122) from 4:30-6:30pm. See the *Riveroaks Weekly* for ways you can be involved and contribute.

Riveroaks Kids Service Project - Operation Christmas Child: Saturday, November 11 from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm. More details coming soon!

**Next Sunday, November 5 Daylight Saving Time begins.
Remember to change your clocks - Fall Back!**

For a complete listing of our Bible Studies and for more announcements, please see The Riveroaks Weekly. The Riveroaks Weekly email is published each Thursday. To sign up, contact office@riveroakspca.org. Assistive listening devices are available for worship services. Please see a deacon or an usher for help with a device.

The Living Church in the Midst of a Dying World

"For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation for all people"

A Sermon Series on the Book of Titus



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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School	9:30am
Morning Worship	10:45pm
Evening Worship	6:00pm (1st & 3rd Sundays)
Community Groups	times vary (2nd & 4th Sunday evenings)