

# THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

September 30, 2018

We gather today as “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant ... ” Hebrews 12:23-24a

## A Time for Preparation

### *Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship*

Everlasting Creator-Father,

I have destroyed myself, my nature is defiled, the powers of my soul are degraded, I am vile, miserable, strengthless, but my hope is in you. If ever I am saved it will be by goodness undeserved and astonishing, not by little mercy but by abundant mercy, not by little grace but by exceeding riches of grace. And such you have revealed, promised, exemplified in thoughts of peace, not evil. You have devised means to rescue me from sin’s perdition, to restore me to happiness, honor, and safety. I bless you for the everlasting covenant, for the appointment of a Mediator. I rejoice that he failed not, nor was discouraged, but accomplished the work you gave him to do, and said on the cross, ‘It is finished.’ I exult in the thought that your justice is satisfied, your truth established, your law magnified, and a foundation is laid for my hope. I look to a present and personal interest in Christ and say, Surely, he has borne my griefs, carried my sorrows, won my peace, and healed my soul. Justified by his blood I am saved by his life. Glorifying in his cross I bow to his scepter. Having his Spirit, I possess his mind. Lord, grant that my religion may not be partial, but universal, influential, and effective and may I always continue in your words as well as your works, so that I may reach my end in peace. Amen! (The Valley of Vision Prayer Book)

**Ringing of Bell** ..... Judah Gosnell

**Announcements**..... Deacon

## A Time for Praise:

### *Prelude*

### *Call to Worship*

Scripture and Prayer ..... Pastor Lucas Mann

- *Hymn of Praise* ..... *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* ..... Hymn #128

## A Time for Offering:

- *Offertory Hymn* ..... *My Savior’s Love* ..... Hymn #348

- ..... *Doxology* ..... Hymn #815

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings ..... Ushers

## A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

*Choral Message* ..... *At the Foot of the Cross* ..... Arr. Anderson  
Message ..... Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

## A Time for Surrender:

- *Hymn of Response* ..... *I Surrender All* ..... Hymn #593

- Benediction

### *Postlude*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

### *Affirmation of Faith – the Baptist Catechism, 1813*

#### **Q. Which is the seventh commandment?**

A. The seventh commandment is, “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Ex. 20:14)

#### **Q. What is required in the seventh commandment?**

A. The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor’s chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior (1 Cor. 7:2, 3, 5, 34, 36; Col. 4:6; 1 Pet. 3:2).

#### **Q. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?**

A. The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions (Mt. 15:19, 5:28; Eph. 5:3, 4).

## Opportunities of the Week

### **Sunday, September 30**

11:00 a.m. Special Church Conference

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

7:00 p.m. Evening Service

7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry

7:00 p.m. Children’s Ministry

### **Wednesday, October 3**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

#### **Nursery this week:**

Megan Balentine

Mary Brock

#### **Church Watch this month:**

Larry Powell

# Covenant and Fellowship

By William Smith

**The day will come when we will see Jesus in the flesh of His resurrection glory and we will sit down at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Then we will see as we have never seen, know as we have never known, and eat the very bread and drink the very wine of heaven**

I don’t know about you, but I find some social situations intimidating. In seminary, when we would go out preaching, sometimes we would be invited for lunch to some nice homes where "old Mississippi" families lived. We were two poor kids from down-on-their-luck families, and I was always waiting for someone to tap me on the shoulder and say, "Boy, you don’t belong with these folks, do you? Perhaps you’d like to leave." Since then we have been invited to country clubs, and I usually feel that I am wearing a sign that says, "Not a member here."

Perhaps you’re one of those people who is so comfortable in your own skin that you can go anywhere with any people, and not feel any discomfort. But I expect there is one invitation that would intimidate you – and if it doesn’t it should. That is an invitation from God to come see Him and have a meal.

It is the rare "superior" who can make an "inferior" feel comfortable in his presence, but we will see how you and I, created, dependent, and sinful beings, can eat a covenant meal in the Presence of God.

Exodus 24 takes us onto the scene of an ancient covenant making ceremony. Let’s observe some things about this covenant. Before we do that, let me remind you what a covenant is. It is "a bond in blood sovereignly administered." God relates to us by means of covenants. These covenants are binding relationships with life and death consequences which God as King imposes on us as His subjects. Now let’s make those observations on this covenant made at Mt. Sinai.

### **I. IT WAS A MEDIATED COVENANT.**

At Mount Sinai the LORD manifested His presence with fire and smoke, thundering, lightening and quaking. The people were warned not to so much as touch the mountain where the signs of the LORD’s presence appeared. The entire sensory experience impressed upon the Israelites the infinite glory, majesty, power, and holiness of God. God is so big and so pure that mortal sinners dare not to approach Him upon pain of death. The people were so in filled with fear when they heard the voice of the LORD declaring the Ten Commandments that they begged that the LORD would no longer speak to them directly. Rather they wished that the LORD would speak to Moses and that Moses would speak to them.

The LORD directed that Moses, the future priests, and the seventy elders should come onto the mountain. The people would remain in the camp, the priests and elder would go part way up the mountain, and Moses alone would go near the LORD on the mountain. Moses is playing the role the people had asked him to play and which God assigned to him, to be the mediator through whom God would deal with His people. Moses was "the man in the middle" between God and man.

The only way we who are sinners can approach God and live, can come to Him and receive blessing rather than cursing, is through a mediator. Now every human mediator, whether Moses or the priests, shares with us in all the

deficiencies of fallen human nature. He, too, is a sinner, which makes him able to understand and sympathize with us on our side of the divide between us and God. But his sinfulness disqualifies him as much as it does us from approaching God. In a sense, in order to deal with us God had to make an exception, allowing one sinner to come before Him and represent other sinners.

But that would not do forever. There had to be a better Mediator. One who would share our sin-cursed nature but not our sin. The Psalmist asked, "Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?" That hill, where God manifested His glorious Presence was Mt. Sinai in Moses' time and later Mt. Zion in Jerusalem, the temple mount. In the end no one of us is qualified to go up to where the LORD reveals Himself. But Jesus Christ, the eternal Son who became Man, who had no sin and did not sin, though tempted, Jesus Christ who came down out of heaven, is the only Mediator who can bring God down to us and us up to God. It is in Jesus Christ alone that we can approach God, not for judgment but for blessing.

May I ask you a simple question? Are you trying to approach God and receive His favor as your own mediator? You will never come before God and receive from Him blessing rather than cursing so long as you come on your own. The only way to come to God is by faith in Jesus Christ, the only, and perfect Mediator.

## II. IT WAS A LAW COVENANT.

This covenant has a sustained emphasis on law. All covenants involve obligations. The king obligates himself to do certain things for the people coming under his authority, and he imposes on them obligations to him and his kingdom. But here the obligation side of the covenant is underscored. There are "the words of the LORD and the rules," "the law and the commandment." These consist probably of the Ten Commandments and then the application of them in the case laws given from the end of chapter 20 through chapter 23.

There are copies of these laws. Moses made one copy, so that the people would have a written record of what God had said to them when He spoke the Ten Commandments and then what the LORD had spoken to Moses and Moses had reported orally to the people. There must be no doubt what the obligations of the people were, so the laws were put in writing. Then, when Moses went back up on the mountain again the LORD provided two copies of the law written on tablets of stone. This is in accord with the ancient covenant making ceremonies, when the king would give the laws and then would provide two identical copies, one for the people and one for himself, so that there might be no doubt about the laws the king had given. If need be, both could consult their copies.

There can be no doubt that Israel was given law and that they were obligated to keep it as part of their faithfulness to God their King and of their loyalty to His covenant. However, it would be a mistake to think that the LORD gave these laws to His people so that they could keep them and become His people. No, the LORD gave these laws to those whom He had redeemed out of Egyptian bondage and were already His people. These are the laws that guide them in how the LORD wants them to live as His people.

We may well ask what, if anything, these laws have to do with us. Some would tell us that these laws have nothing at all to do with us – that we are not under law in any way but under grace. But that is a serious misunderstanding of the role of the law. We know the law cannot save us, because we are unable to keep it. "By the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." The law can show us our sin and lead us to Christ, but it cannot save us. But once

we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ the law becomes our guide to life in the kingdom, to how we will live as citizens of the kingdom of grace.

There are two great differences for us after the coming of Christ. For one thing, the law is simplified. Rather than having an all but endless string of laws giving us detail after detail about all sorts of things, we can direct our attention to the heart of the covenant law, which is the Ten Commandments and the principles on which they are hung, to love God with all our being and our neighbor as ourselves. We need not worry about such things as ceremonial washings and clean and unclean foods. Focus the Ten Commandments and the Two Principles. Then, for us, the law is not merely an external code written on parchment or stone. For us the law is also internalized by the Holy Spirit who takes God's laws and writes them on our hearts and minds, so that we know them inwardly and have the inclination and power to keep them.

There are two different extremes among Christians regarding law. There are those who never met a law they didn't like, who would like to regulate everything by law. They tend to be legalistic, making laws where God gives freedom. There are others who never met a law they liked. They resist any sense of rules, of obligation, of duty. The Bible points us to the Ten Commandments and the Two Principles and says not, "Do these things and you will be saved," but, "Do these things as saved people who want to know and do the will of God." We as individual Christians and as a community of the LORD's people should be able to say, no less than the Israelites camped at Mt. Sinai: "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." Do you accept the obligation of covenant obedience? Do you live your life as one who says, "All that the LORD has spoken I will do"?

(to be continued)

**We thank you for worshipping with us today. We trust that your heart has been encouraged, your spirit filled, and that you will leave here equipped for the work to which God has called you. If you would like to find out more information about Poplar Springs Baptist Church, please visit our website: [www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org) or call (864) 861-2196.**

## Church Contact Information:

**Church/Fellowship Building:** (864) 861-2190

**Office/Parsonage:** (864) 861-2196

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 124, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

**Church Office:** 6466 Poplar Springs Road, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

**Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday, 8-4

**Email:** [balentine@poplarspringsws.org](mailto:balentine@poplarspringsws.org)

**Interim Pastor:** Lucas Mann  
(864) 909-7564

**Youth Pastor:** Travis Gosnell

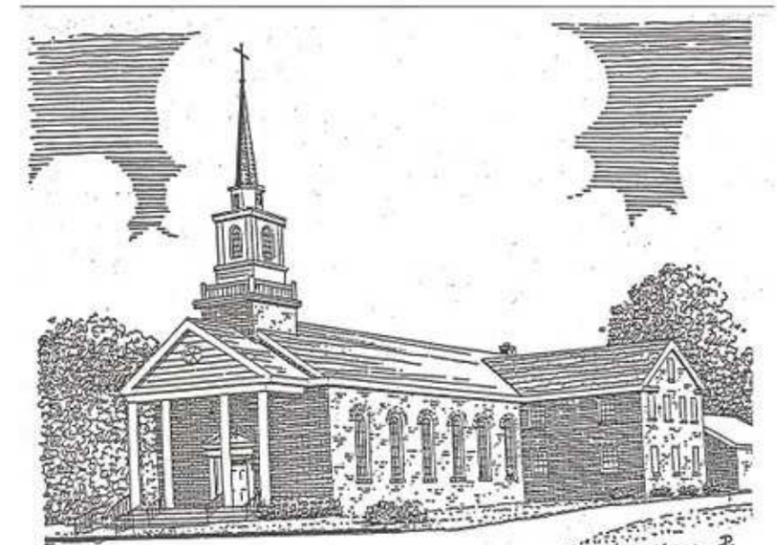
**Music Leader:** Deck Balentine

**Pianist:** Jean Powell

**Website:** [www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org)

# Poplar Springs

# Baptist Church



Poplar Springs Baptist Church

Ware Shoals, S.C.

*"He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.'"*

*Psalm 105:8-11*

**THE LORD'S DAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018**

**6000 Poplar Springs Road**

**Ware Shoals, SC 29692**

**(864) 861-2196**

**[www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org)**

**Interim Pastor Lucas Mann**

**Sunday School: 10:00 am**

**Worship: 11:00 am**