



**Covenant Church
Presbyterian Church in America
Fayetteville, Arkansas**

**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
THE LORD'S DAY
September 3, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

Welcome & Announcements

Women's weekly Bible study beginning Thursday, September 7th at 9:30am. They will be studying "Westminster Confession Study Guide" by Joseph Pipa. Contact Judy Smith for more details. Childcare will be provided.

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 24th convening at 10:30 AM concluding at the end of worship, for the purpose of electing new ruling elders. Phil Schenewerk and Nathan Jarvis have been approved by the session to stand for the office of ruling elder.

We as a church will pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child this coming November. In preparation for this event, please see the information in the back of the sanctuary for ideas on items to include. Contact Jan House for more information.

† Opening Prayer

† Hymn of Praise

**#452 (TH #499)
"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"**

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Psalm 37:18-26
Pew Bible page number 466

¹⁸ The Lord knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever; ¹⁹ they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance. ²⁰ But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the Lord are

like the glory of the pastures; they vanish—like smoke they vanish away. ²¹The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; ²²for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off. ²³The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; ²⁴though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand. ²⁵I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. ²⁶He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Paul Sagan

“The Blessing of the Blameless”

† Closing Hymn

#37

“Do Not Fret on Account of the Wicked”

(verses 10-11)

† Benediction

SERMON OUTLINE
September 3, 2023
5:00 p.m.

Psalm 37:18-26
“The Blessing of the Blameless”

Introduction

- I. The Blessings of the Blameless (v. 18-19)
- II. The Destruction of God’s Enemies (v. 20)
- III. The Prosperity of the Righteous (v. 21-22)

Conclusion

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
 4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

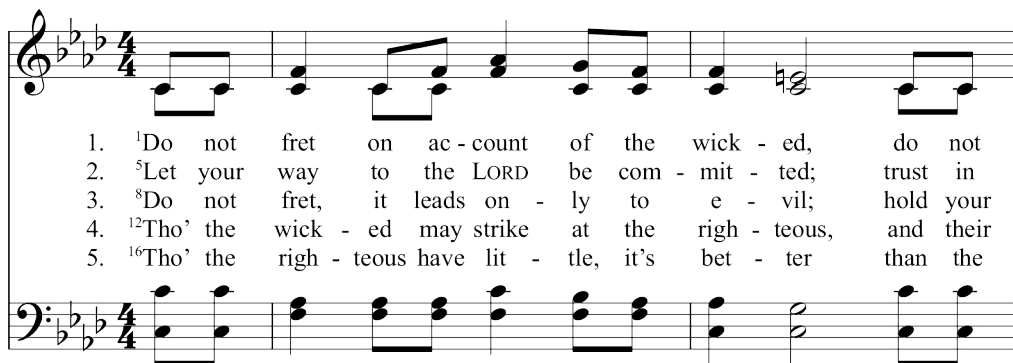
let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no re - spite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the Foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

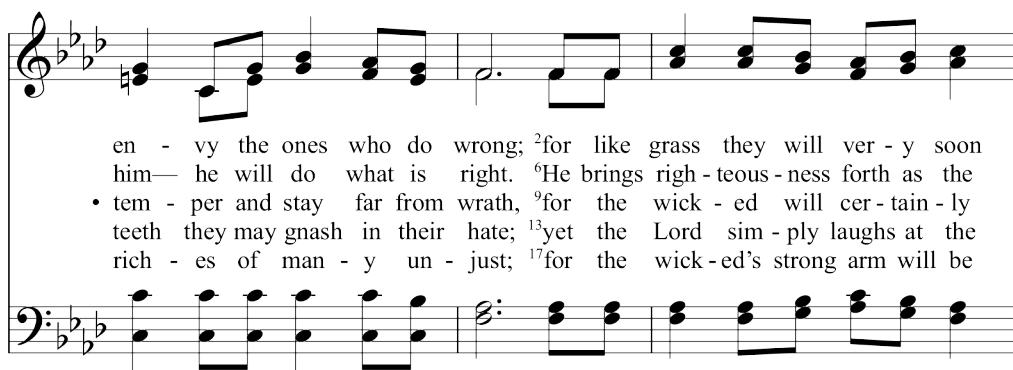
Augustus M. Toplady, 1776
 Alt. Thomas Cotterill, 1815

TOPLADY 7.7.7.7.7.7.
 Thomas Hastings, 1830

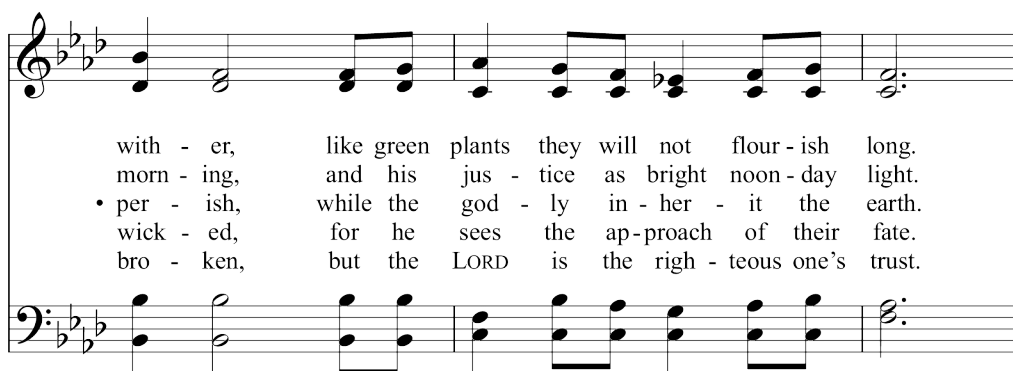
Do Not Fret on Account of the Wicked



1. ¹Do not fret on ac - count of the wick - ed, do not
 2. ⁵Let your way to the LORD be com - mit - ted; trust in
 3. ⁸Do not fret, it leads on - ly to e - vil; hold your
 4. ¹²Tho' the wick - ed may strike at the righ - teous, and their
 5. ¹⁶Tho' the righ - teous have lit - tle, it's bet - ter than the



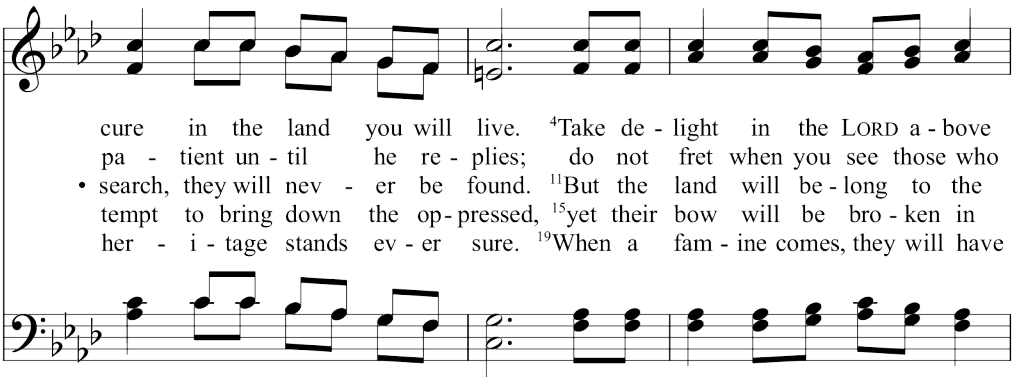
en - vy the ones who do wrong; ²for like grass they will ver - y soon
 him— he will do what is right. ⁶He brings righ - teous - ness forth as the
 • tem - per and stay far from wrath, ⁹for the wick - ed will cer - tain - ly
 teeth they may gnash in their hate; ¹³yet the Lord sim - ply laughs at the
 rich - es of man - y un - just; ¹⁷for the wick - ed's strong arm will be



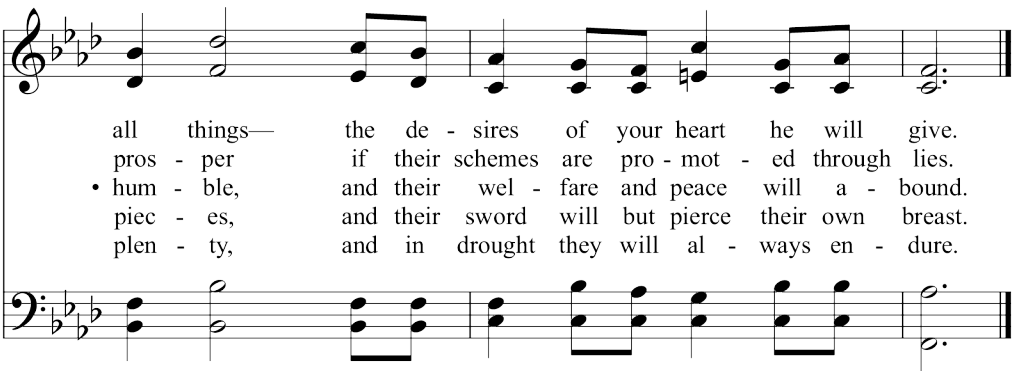
with - er, like green plants they will not flour - ish long.
 morn - ing, and his jus - tice as bright noon - day light.
 • per - ish, while the god - ly in - her - it the earth.
 wick - ed, for he sees the ap - proach of their fate.
 bro - ken, but the LORD is the righ - teous one's trust.



³Put your trust in the LORD and be up - right; then se -
⁷So be si - lent and seek the LORD's pres - ence, and be
 • ¹⁰Yet a - while and the wick - ed will van - ish; though you
¹⁴Tho' the wick - ed take aim at the righ - teous, and at -
¹⁸Day by day cares the LORD for the blame - less, so their



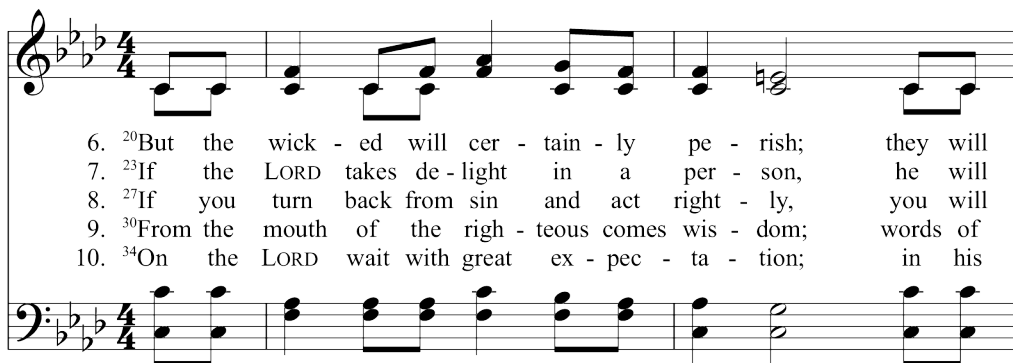
cure in the land you will live. ⁴Take de - light in the LORD a - bove
 pa - tient un - til he re - plies; do not fret when you see those who
 • search, they will nev - er be found. ¹¹But the land will be - long to the
 tempt to bring down the op - pressed, ¹⁵yet their bow will be bro - ken in
 her - i - tage stands ev - er sure. ¹⁹When a fam - ine comes, they will have



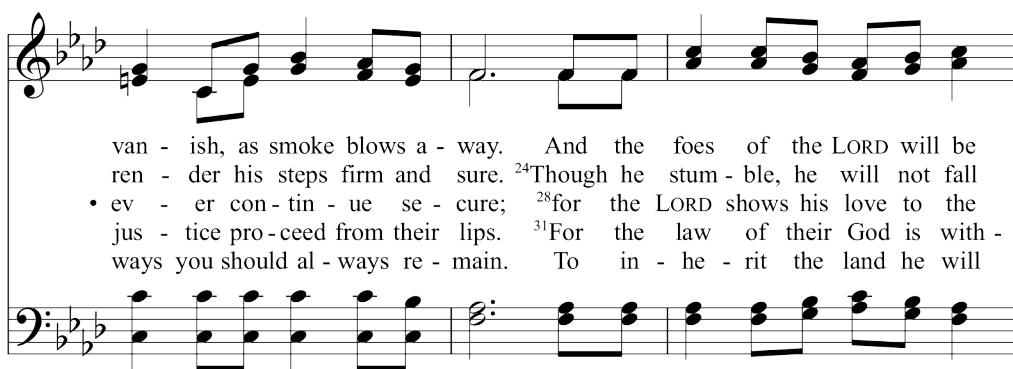
all things— the de - sires of your heart he will give.
 pros - per if their schemes are pro - mot - ed through lies.
 • hum - ble, and their wel - fare and peace will a - bound.
 piec - es, and their sword will but pierce their own breast.
 plen - ty, and in drought they will al - ways en - dure.

(continued on next page)

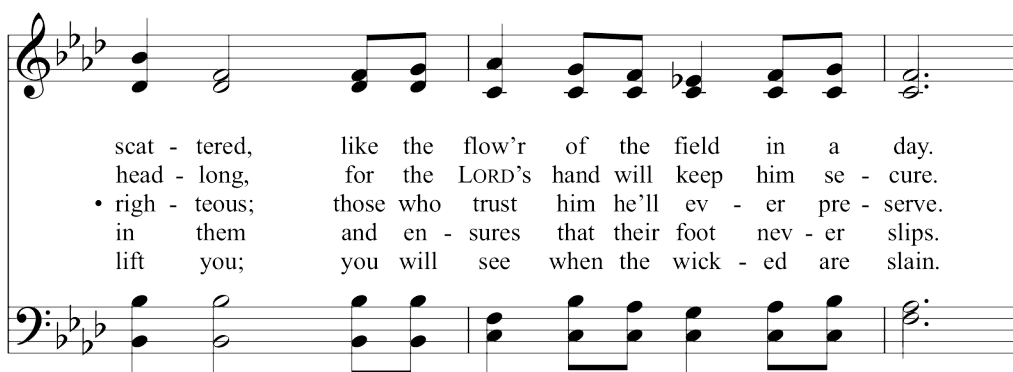
37 (continued)



6. ²⁰But the wick - ed will cer - tain - ly pe - rish; they will
 7. ²³If the LORD takes de - light in a per - son, he will
 8. ²⁷If you turn back from sin and act right - ly, you will
 9. ³⁰From the mouth of the righ - teous comes wis - dom; words of
 10. ³⁴On the LORD wait with great ex - pec - ta - tion; in his



van - ish, as smoke blows a - way. And the foes of the LORD will be
 ren - der his steps firm and sure. ²⁴Though he stum - ble, he will not fall
 • ev - er con - tin - ue se - cure; ²⁸for the LORD shows his love to the
 jus - tice pro - ceed from their lips. ³¹For the law of their God is with -
 ways you should al - ways re - main. To in - he - rit the land he will



scat - tered, like the flow'r of the field in a day.
 head - long, for the LORD's hand will keep him se - cure.
 • righ - teous; those who trust him he'll ev - er pre - serve.
 in them and en - sures that their foot nev - er slips.
 lift you; you will see when the wick - ed are slain.

²¹The un - god - ly re - tain what they bor - row, but the
²⁵All my life I have not seen the righ - teous left for -
 • The o - be - dient will not be for - sak - en, but the
³²The un - just lie in wait for the righ - teous; to des -
³⁵I have wit - nessed the wick - ed and ruth - less spread - ing

just give with gen - er - ous hand. ²²For those blest by the LORD will in -
 sak - en or beg - ging for food. ²⁶They are al - ways pre - pared to lend
 • line of the wick - ed will fail. ²⁹To the righ - teous the land will be
 troy them is al - ways their thought. ³³But the LORD will not let them be
 forth like a tree in the ground. ³⁶But he soon passed a - way and was

he - rit, while the cursed are cut off from the land.
 free - ly, and their chil - dren will share what is good.
 • giv - en, and for - ev - er will they in it dwell.
 mas - tered, or con - demned when to court they are brought.
 noth - ing; though I searched, he was not to be found.

11. ³⁷Watch the blameless, consider the upright;
 there's a future for those who make peace.
³⁸But destruction awaits the rebellious,
 and their future will suddenly cease.
³⁹From the LORD comes the hope of the righteous,
 and in trouble defense for the meek;
⁴⁰so the LORD saves them all from the wicked,
 for in him their protection they seek.