

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

Third Sunday of Lent

03 March 2024

# Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Greetings and blessings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What a sweet and meaningful time we've shared together on Wednesday evenings during Lent. The table fellowship, Kid's Club, Vespers, Youth Group, children and adult Choirs—it's all been so rich.

I've particularly enjoyed seeing new faces on Wednesday nights. The midweek gathering is a great way to get know folks at Cornerstone, and, if you have kids, for them to begin to build relationships with other children or youth in the church. It's not too late to join! Jump in this week with us. We'd love to have you.

During our evening Vespers service, we're working our way through a sampling of the "One Another Commands." We started with "Have this Mind with One Another" leaning on Philippians 2. The next week we discussed "Welcome One Another" focusing on Romans 15. This last week we considered, "Speak the Word with One Another" from I Thessalonians 5 and Hebrews 3:13. Over the next three weeks, we'll consider fellowshipping with one another, serving one another, and giving grace to one another.

If you are unable to participate in Vespers, please consider listening to the talks by going to our website. Hover your mouse over the Media tab and then click on "audio resources." The first three talks are uploaded and available for your listening pleasure.

Now, as hard as it is to believe, three weeks from today we'll be celebrating Palm Sunday and beginning our annual walk through the final week of Jesus Christ's life. As in previous years, we will gather on Maundy Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for a special communion service. The very next evening we will ponder the significance of the crucifixion during our Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m. Two days later, on Easter morning, we will gather three times—7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 10:45 a.m.—to rejoice in Christ's victory over sin and death in the resurrection.

Please make plans to fully participate on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday this year. By committing to partake in all three services during Holy Week—Thursday, Friday, and Sunday—you have a special opportunity to be immersed into power of the redemptive drama. Coursing through the narratives of the Last Supper and the crucifixion on the way to the empty tomb provides a soul-enriching opportunity to be renewed in the power of the gospel. Take time now to clear your calendar and make the commitment to share in this special season with your brothers and sisters at Cornerstone.

Finally, let me ask you—who will you invite to join you for Easter this year at Cornerstone? Easter is a perfect time to invite unbelieving neighbors, friends, coworkers, and family to church. I am preparing to preach a simple gospel message in prayerful hope that the Spirit of God might use it to draw lost men and women, boys and girls, into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Please join me in that prayer and do your part by extending to them an invitation to worship with you at Cornerstone this Easter.

Your servant,

Nate

Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live what they have learned.

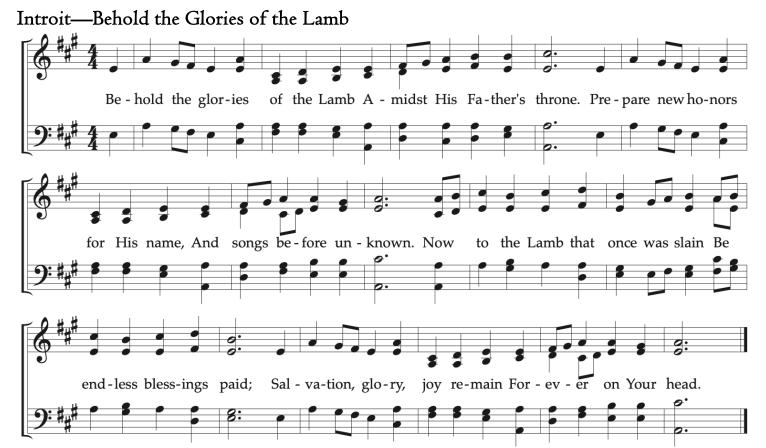
This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

Worship Notes—We will focus on the Servant Song of Isaiah 49 in which He will be "a light to the nations, that...salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (vs 6). The Call to Worship from Psalm 36 reminds us that the steadfast Love of the Lord "extends to the heavens" for in Him "is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light" (vs 5, 9). Our opening hymn, *Immortal, Invisible* exalts the Lord as one who is "hod from our sight" in "light inaccessible" and who is the "pure Father of light." The Assurance of Pardon from I John I contrasts the lie of walking in darkness versus walking in the light. As we sing *Psalm 67: O God, To Us Show Mercy,* the Psalmist rejoices that the Lord's way "on earth shall soon be known" and that there is a promise that "all the earth will fear Him." Our first Communion Hymn, *Psalm 79:8-13—Remember Not, O God* speaks to the forgiveness of sins and that in His compassion, the Servant of the Lord hears "the prisoner's plaintive sigh." The second Communion Hymn prayerfully seeks the light of Christ to calm our anxious hearts to "bid the gloom of guilt depart" so that the sweetness of the gospel may be shed abroad. We conclude with *Mighty Lord, Extend Your Kingdom* that "the land that sit in darkness hear the glorious Gospel sound."—*Greg Wilbur* 

#### Prelude, Announcements, and Preparation

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.



#### Call to Worship—Psalm 36:5-10

Pastor: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;

your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.

Pastor: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All: The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Pastor: They feast on the abundance of your house,

All: and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Pastor: For with you is the fountain of life;

All: in your light do we see light.

Pastor: Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you,

All: and your righteousness to the upright of heart!

# Hymn of Praise—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



#### New Testament Reading—Revelation I:12-18

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup> his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup> and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

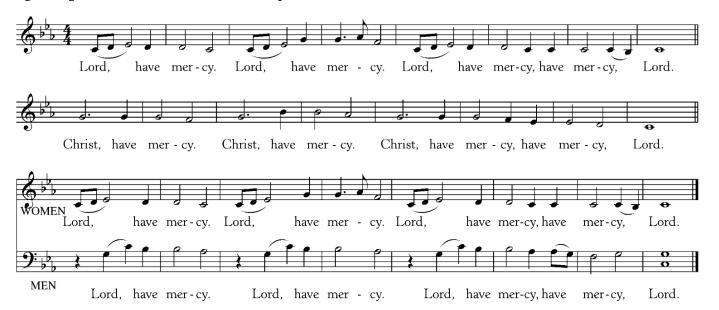
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

# Sung Response—Lord, Have Mercy



Text: Luke 18:13; Music: Franklin Kyrie, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

# Congregational Confession of Sin—Based upon Psalm I30

Leader: We come before you in prayer and repentance:

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O LORD, hear my voice.

All: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

Leader: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand?

All: But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Leader: I wait for you, O LORD, my soul waits,

All: and in your word I hope;

Leader: my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning,

All: more than watchmen for the morning.

Leader: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

All: and with him is plentiful redemption.

Leader: And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

# Silent Prayers of Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon—I John I:5-9

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

+++New Arrivals are Welcome to be Seated+++

# Psalm of Praise—Psalm 67: O God, To Us Show Mercy



Text: Psalm 67, The Psalter, 1912; Music: MEIRIONYDD, Welsh Hymn Melody, William Lloyd, 1840; alt 2008.

#### The Reading of the Word—Isaiah 49:I-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,

and give attention, you peoples from afar.

The LORD called me from the womb,

from the body of my mother he named my name.

<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword;

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow;

in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant,

Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

<sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain;

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my right is with the LORD,

and my recompense with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says,

he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him;

and that Israel might be gathered to him-

for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,

and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup>he says:

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to bring back the preserved of Israel;

I will make you as a light for the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers:

"Kings shall see and arise;

princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;

because of the LORD, who is faithful,

the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

### Sermon—The Servant Songs of Isaiah, Pt 3

The Servant of the Lord: Redeemer and the Hope of the Nations —Nate Shurden, Pastor

# Sung Response—Let Glory Be to God on High



CCLI #11121087 Text: From the Liturgy of St. James & an 8th Century manuscript (Gloria in excelsis Deo); Music: Gregory D. Wilbur, 2018.

#### Profession of Faith—The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth,

and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of the Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

Very God of Very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,

and was made man,

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven,

and now sits on the right hand of the Father.

And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead,

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and Giver of Life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.

And we look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

# Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

#### Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

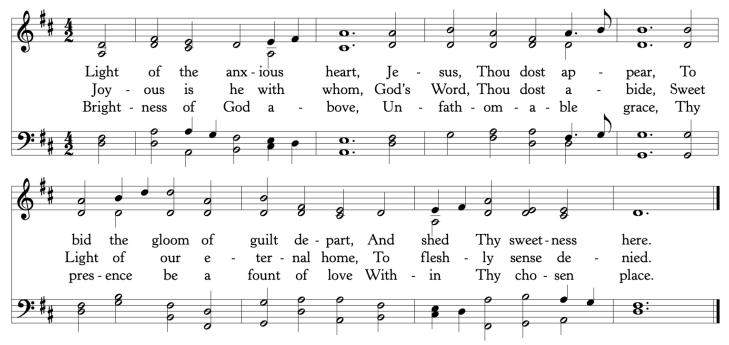
At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. Proceed to the first table for the bread, and then on the second for wine/juice.

# Psalm of the Month—Psalm 79:8-13: Remember Not, O God



CCLI #11121087 Text: Psalm 79 The 1912 Psalter; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2016; Bridge: Kirk Sauers & Paul Ranheim, 2023.

# Hymn of Communion—Light of The Anxious Heart



Text: St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153, Tr. by John Henry Newman, 1801-80; Music: SELMA, Robert Archibald Smith, 1780-1829

#### Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen

# Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

#### 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 of Praise—Mighty Lord, Extend Your Kingdom



Text: Joseph Cottle, 1828; Music: Gregory D Wilbur, 2008. © 2008 Greyfriars Press. Used by Permission.

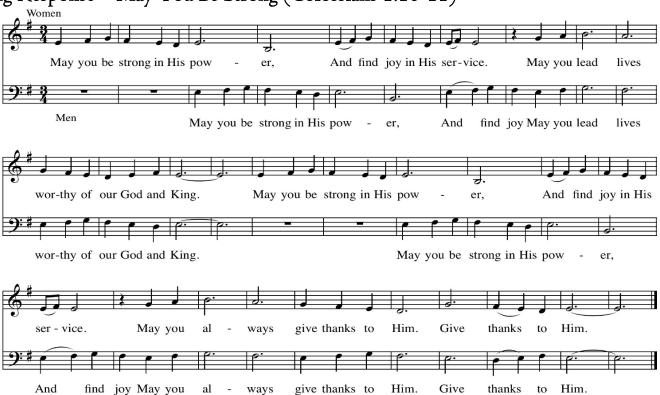
#### GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

#### Benediction—from Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

# Sung Response—May You Be Strong (Colossians I:10-II)



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Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here!
We invite you to fill out a visitor form by scanning this QR code so that we may welcome you personally.
Alternatively, visitor cards are available at either entrance to the chapel
and can be placed in one of the offering boxes as you leave.



# Focus on Church Ministry

#### Loving Franklin's Elderly

On the first Sunday of each month, a group from Cornerstone leads a brief worship service at Morning Pointe of Franklin. We'd love to have you offer friendship to the residents and lend your voice to the singing of hymns. Please join us after the service **today** from I:30-2:15 p.m. Contact: ethan@cstonepres.org

#### Midweek at Cornerstone

Every Wednesday leading up to Holy Week we are gathering for Midweek. Join us for a fellowship dinner (starting at 5:15 p.m.) and stay for Youth Group, Kid's Club, Choir, and Vespers. Get more information and register for meals by joining our email list.

#### Golf Tournament Fundraiser: May 13

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for a Golf Tournament at the Franklin Bridge Golf Club on Monday, May 13, to support our youth mission team heading to



Belize. Scan this QR code to sponsor a hole, play in the tournament, **or simply donate** (you can enter an amount on the form and leave the other fields blank). Thank you for helping our youth get to Belize!

#### Rekindled Fellowship

The Rekindled Ministry (ladies 55ish+ who live alone) is hosting a fellowship at the home of Laurie Mee on Saturday, March 16 at 2:00 p.m. Join us for tea and coffee—and bring a dozen small treats (muffins, cookies, candies, etc.) to swap and share if you are able! Get more details and sign up through the website or app.

#### Adult Sunday School Classes: Today

Exploring the Mystery: The Person and Work of Jesus Christ Pastors Nate and Tony as well as Nathan Johnson will lead this course in the Chapel exploring the rich theological truths surrounding Christ's person and work.

For Glory and for Beauty

In this course on the Third Floor, Greg Wilbur will provide a biblically grounded understanding of and purpose for the arts as one the ways we "adorn sound doctrine" for the glory of God in the world.

#### Holy Week Schedule

March 28: Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m. March 29: Good Friday, 6:30 p.m. March 31: Easter Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

#### Literature Discussion

Monday, March 18 at 7:00pm: A Lenten Pilgrimage through Poetry as Prayer
Join Carolyn Weber as she leads a presentation of poems by Donne, Herbert, Rossetti, Hopkins, and more in association with Lent and Holy Week. There is no reading required before this particular event. Hosted in the Chapel. Contact: greg@cstonepres.org
Upcoming: Monday, April 8 at 7:00pm: Jayber Crow by Wendell Berry

#### Cornerstone Youth—Nerf War

On Friday, March 22, from 6:00-9:00 p.m., the Cornerstone Youth are having a Nerf War! We'll roam the church, have team battles of all sorts, eat snacks, and have fun together. Nerf darts will be provided, but bring your own Nerf gun. Contact: drew@cstonepres.org

April 26-28: Spring Retreat at Deer Run. Register online.

#### Life at the Corner Podcast

Have you caught *Life at the* Corner lately? Listen to Pastor Nate dive into cultural and theological matters as well as discuss questions on the intersection of life and faith with other Cornerstone members and staff. You can find *Life at the Corner* on Apple, Spotify, or anywhere you listen to podcasts. Don't forget to leave a review! Contact lifeatthecorner@cstonepres.org with questions or feedback.

#### Lent Devotional: Learning to Love like Christ

Our devotional booklet walks through the weeks of Lent with daily liturgies and brief reflections on the Psalms of Lament from many of your fellow Cornerstone members. Copies are available at either entrance to the Chapel.

# Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "Servant of the Lord: Redeemer and the Hope of the Nations," is taken from Isaiah 49:I-7. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- When the servant of the Lord is described as having a "mouth like a sharp sword" and a "polished arrow," what is being emphasized?
- In v. 3, the servant is identified as Israel, but in vs. 5-6, the servant gathers Israel back to the Lord. How can Israel gather Israel back to the Lord?
- If the Servant of the Lord is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, how can he say, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity" (v. 4)?
- Considering God's promises (Genesis 3:15, 12:1-3, etc.) why is it "too light a thing" that the servant would simply restore Israel?
- If we are united to Jesus Christ, and his way is humiliation unto vindication, how does that frame our expectations for life as his servants in the world?
- What are some practical ways you/we can be a gospel light to the world this week (see Matthew 5:16)? Be specific.

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org
Assistant Pastor: Tony Giles (615-430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org
Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org
Office Administrator: Robin Spychalski (615-618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org
Church Life Coordinator: Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) or dan@cstonepres.org
Women's Ministry Director: Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or women@cstonepres.org
Men's Ministry: men@cstonepres.org

Young Adult Ministry: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youngadults@cstonepres.org
Director of Youth and Families: Drew Abercrombie (407-489-1724) or drew@cstonepres.org
Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org

Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org

Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Kelley Shell (662-231-9814) or kelley@cstonepres.org

Home Fellowship Information: HFG@cstonepres.org

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

#### Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (615-260-1884) Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443) Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

Preston Brooks (615-838-0359) Joe Haworth (615-289-7543) Jim Payne (615-497-0613)

Terry Cheney (615-579-7089) Will Kesler (423-313-7493) Jim Smith (615-347-4188)

John Millard (423-443-8852)

#### Deacons

 Mark Elliott (615-477-1041)
 Mike Payne (615-579-6453)
 Matt Suits (706-218-2823)

 Matt Faulk (714-801-7596)
 Wes Pittman (615-406-6209)
 Casey Taggart (662-813-3563)

 Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)
 Brent Roberts (615-394-0662)
 Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

 Mark Mitchell (630-835-7754)
 Jim Robinson (615-587-0442)
 Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)

 \*Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

\*On Sabbatical

136 Third Ave S, Franklin, Tennessee 37064 www.cornerstonepresfranklin.org (615) 618-4707

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

