

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## ∞ GOD GATHERS ∞



**Mission Sunday**

*November 15, 2020*

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

***Revelation 15:3-4*** (responsive reading)

Great and marvelous are your deeds,  
Lord God Almighty!

**Just and true are your ways,  
King of the ages.**

Who will not fear you, O Lord,  
And bring glory to your name?

**For you alone are holy.**

**All nations will come and worship you!**

### **Hymn of Praise**

***Holy, Holy, Holy***<sup>i</sup>

(verse 1)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

(verse 2)

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

(verse 3)

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

## Hymn of Praise

## *Holy, Holy, Holy* (cont.)

(verse 4)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## Prayer of Praise

## Songs of Praise

## *His Mercy Is More* <sup>ii</sup>

(verse 1)

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum;  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

(verse 2)

What patience would wait as we constantly roam,  
What Father so tender is calling us home!  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

(CHORUS)

*Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn;  
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more!*

(verse 3)

What riches of kindness He lavished on us;  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more. (chorus 2x)

## Songs of Praise (cont.)

## *For the Cause* <sup>iii</sup>

(verse 1)

For the cause of Christ the King we give our lives, an offering,  
'Til all the earth resounds with ceaseless praise to the Son.  
For the cause of Christ we go with joy to reap, with faith to sow,  
As many see and many put their trust in the Son.

(CHORUS)

*Christ we proclaim, the Name above ev'ry name.  
For all creation, ev'ry nation, God's salvation through the Son.*

(verse 2)

For the King, once lifted high to cries of rage, of "crucify",  
Endured the cross as ev'ry sin was laid on the Son.  
To the King who conquered death,  
To free the poor and the oppressed  
For lasting peace, for life and liberty in the Son. (chorus)

(verse 3)

Let it be my life's refrain, "To live is Christ, to die is gain."  
Deny myself, take up my cross and follow the Son. (repeat)

(chorus 2x)

## ∞ GOD RENEWS ∞

## Silent Confession of Sin

## Assurance of Grace

## *Psalm 103:8-13*

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.

<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

## Assurance of Grace

*Psalm 103:8-13* (cont.)

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

## Story of Grace

## Pastoral Prayer

## Hymn of Preparation

*Jesus Shall Reign*<sup>iv</sup>

(verse 1)

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

(verse 2)

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown his head;  
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.

(verse 3)

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on his name.

(verse 4)

Blessings abound where'er He reigns:  
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all the sons of want are blest.

## Song of Preparation

*Jesus Shall Reign* (cont.)

(verse 5)

Let every creature rise and bring  
Peculiar honors to our King,  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen!

∞ GOD FEEDS ∞

## Scripture Reading

*Acts 17:16-32*

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." <sup>21</sup> (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.

<sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.

<sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

<sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

<sup>32</sup> When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

## Sermon *The Archimedean Point*

### Approaching the Table *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*<sup>v</sup>

(verse 1)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone!  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood."

(verse 2)

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received Him,  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise? — "I am with you evermore."

### Approaching the Table *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* (cont.)

(verse 3)

Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, here on earth our Food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the humble flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea;  
You, the Lamb, alone we worship, You, the Lamb, alone we see.

## Bread and Cup

### [Prayer of Communion for those worshiping at home]

Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every table of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, (and remembering particularly my own church and those worshiping there)

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And particularly for the blessings given me... I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to draw near to me during these moments.

I thank you for the union I have with you through the Spirit, and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, my mind, and my strength. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

### Song *By Faith*<sup>vi</sup>

(verse 1)

By faith we see the hand of God  
In the light of creation's grand design,  
In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,  
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

## Song

## *By Faith* (cont.)

(verse 2)

By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
With the power of His promise in their hearts  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,  
A place where peace and justice reign.

*(CHORUS)*

*We will stand as children of the promise;  
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.  
Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

(verse 3)

By faith the prophets saw a day  
When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the power to break  
The chains of sin and death,  
And rise triumphant from the grave.

(verse 4)

By faith the church was called to go  
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost,  
To deliver captives and to preach good news  
In every corner of the earth. (chorus)

(verse 5)

By faith this mountain shall be moved  
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,  
For we know in Christ all things are possible  
For all who call upon His name. (chorus 2x)

∞ **GOD SENDS** ∞

## Benediction

## Postlude

## GOING DEEPER

- Too often we simply don't think much one way or another about the modern university. But think of the University of Michigan with its motto "Leaders and Best." How might you see the university as a "secular missionary sending center"? What does that mean for our culture and why might that be of interest to the church?
- Most of us are not part of university communities. How could today's sermon spur you to praying more faithfully for our colleges and universities, their faculties, and administrations that direct the institutions they lead?
- If you are part of the academy, what insights from the sermon could you build on in your Monday – Friday world on campus?
- How might the church better support and equip faculty, students, and administrators among its members to help them engage their university communities?
- What insights from Luke's account of Paul's stay in Athens could challenge and encourage those of you who struggle with gospel boldness in workplaces and communities other than the world of the academy?



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<sup>i</sup> Trinity Hymnal #100

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<sup>iv</sup> Trinity Hymnal #441

<sup>v</sup> Hymns to the Living God #180; Tune: HYFRYDOL

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