

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

May 6, 2018

*To protect the Worship environment,
please, no drinks in the Sanctuary, and remember to turn off cell phones.*

THE GATHERING

*#26 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe—
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He—
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And tho this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph thru us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him—
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure:
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours thru Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also—
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.

TEXT: Martin Luther; translated by Frederick H. Hedge; based on Psalm 46 MUSIC: Martin Luther

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 46

LEADER: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**ALL: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

LEADER: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**ALL: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.**

LEADER: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

**ALL: The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

LEADER: Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

**ALL: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.**

LEADER: "Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

**ALL: The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

*Rising Sun

Praise Him all you sinners, sing oh sing you weary
Oh praise Him all you children of God
We lift high His glory - shown throughout our stories
We praise Him as the children of God

(chorus)

Our great redeemer, Glorious Savior
Your name is higher than the rising sun
Light of the morning, You shine forever
Your name is higher than the rising sun
Your name is higher than the rising sun

Praise His name forever, speak it loud and clear now
Oh praise Him all you children of God

(repeat chorus)

Hallelujah name above all, we lift Your name in praise
Hallelujah now and always, we lift Your name in praise (repeat)

(repeat chorus)

Your name is higher than the rising sun

THE READING OF JOHN 4:7-21

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

PRIVATE (A time of silent and private confessions for personal sins)

LEADER: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

ALL: I acknowledged my sin to you and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Thanks be to God.

*THE PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into Hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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.

(Note: Although not written by the apostles, this creed is a summary of their teachings. Though its origin is traced to the second century, it developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century. For the sake of clarity, please note that we believe that Jesus suffered the agony and punishment of Hell on the cross, most especially when He knew that He had been forsaken by His Father, and that He died a real death from which He was resurrected. We believe also that "holy catholic church" refers to the church universal.)

***#415 (Trinity) Baptized into Your Name Most Holy**

Baptized into Your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly, among Your seed, Your chosen host.
Buried with Christ and dead to sin: I have Your Spirit now within.

My loving Father, me You've taken for-e'er to be Your child and heir;
My faithful Savior, me You've given Your righteous, holy life to share;
O Holy Spirit, You will be a comfort, guide, and help to me.

My faithful God, Your Word fails never, Your covenant surely will abide;
Oh, cast me not away forever, should I transgress it on my side!
Though I have oft my soul defiled, in love forgive, restore Your child.

Yes, all I am and love most dearly I offer now, O Lord, to You.
Oh, let me make my vows sincerely, and what I say, help me to do.
Let naught within me naught I own, serve any will but Yours alone.

Johann J. Rambach, 1723; Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863;

***Jesus, I Come**

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health, out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Jesus, I come to Thee.
Jesus, I come to Thee.

TEXT: William T. Sleeper MUSIC: ©2000 Greg Thompson

THE DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Although giving is a significant part of worship, we do not collect the offering during our service. Two boxes are placed by the doors to receive your offering. Tithes and offerings for the General Fund are placed in the box without the "steeple." Offerings for the Building Fund are to be placed in the box with the "steeple," with check payable to Grace EPC Building Fund.

THE WELCOME

At this time, please fill out the friendship register found at the side aisle. As the register is passed, please note those with whom you are worshipping so that you can greet one another after the service. If this is your first Sunday at Grace, please accept our invitation to worship with us again soon. If you would like information about Grace EPC, please take one of our brochures from the table in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home, please let us know and we will be happy to visit with you.

(CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR THEIR CLASSES AT THIS TIME:
K-4TH GRADE — LINE UP IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE SANCTUARY.
CONNECT CLASS [5TH & 6TH GRADE] HEAD DIRECTLY TO ROOM 7)

(THOSE WHO ARRIVE AFTER THE SERVICE HAS BEGUN MAY BE SEATED AT THIS TIME)

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:14-21

RESPONSE TO THE READING OF THE WORD

All: The grass withers and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord remains forever.

THE MESSAGE FROM SCRIPTURE

Bill Vogler

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Table of the Lord is open to each person who acknowledges himself/herself to be a sinner in the sight of God and without hope for salvation except in His sovereign mercy; who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners; who receives and depends upon Christ alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel; and who promises and resolves in humble reliance upon the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ.

If this is your profession of faith, you are welcome at the Lord's Table. As you come, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and eat. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; at His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praise the everlasting King.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise Him for His grace and favor to our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Glorious in faithfulness.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Angels, help us to adore Him, Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him; dwellers all in time and space,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praise with us the God of grace.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

(repeat chorus)

Fatherlike He tends and spares us, well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Widely still His mercy flows.
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Widely still His mercy flows.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(chorus)

Oh! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing, this my plea, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(repeat chorus)

Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(repeat chorus 2x)

TEXT and MUSIC: Robert Lowry

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners

Jesus! What a friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

(chorus)

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins.

(repeat chorus)

Jesus! What a help in sorrow!
While the tempest still is high,
Storms surround me, night o'ertakes me,
He, my pilot, hears my cry.

(repeat chorus)

Jesus! What a guide and keeper!
More than all in Him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.

(repeat chorus)

Words: John Wilbur Chapman. Music: Rowland Prichard.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

THE SENDING

***THE BENEDICTION**

***#625 Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER

It is our sincere desire to pray effectively for the particular needs of those worshipping with us this morning. If you have a prayer concern that you want shared with the congregation during the prayers of the people, please call the church office or one of the elders prior to the service with your request. If you desire prayer on a personal matter, we invite you to meet with the elders in the front pews after the Benediction.

Available for prayer after 8:15 worship: Kim Grubbs & Larry Swinson

Available for prayer after 10:45 worship: Todd Koch & Michael Boulton

*Congregation will stand.