

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

September 16, 2018

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

## THE GATHERING

### **\*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 25**

LEADER: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;

**ALL: Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.**

LEADER: Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

**ALL: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

## \*Lion and the Lamb

He's coming on the clouds,  
And kings and kingdoms will bow down  
Every chain will break as broken hearts declare His praise  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

(chorus)

Our God is the lion – the lion of Judah  
He's roaring in power and fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before Him  
Our God is a lamb – the lamb that was slain  
For the sins of the world; His blood breaks the chains  
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb  
Every knee will bow before Him

Open up the gates, make way before the King of kings  
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

(repeat chorus)

Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord

(repeat chorus)

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## THE READING OF PSALM 90

## THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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ALL: Merciful Father, though all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ, we confess that we often rely upon our own thoughts to guide us. Though Christ rules over all things for your glory and our good, we confess that we often strive to be in control of every situation. Though Christ gives true and everlasting peace, we confess that we often grumble in discontent. Forgive us for not trusting your wisdom, your power, your goodness, your love. Heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

**PRIVATE** (Silence is kept for private confession)

LEADER: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Psalm 32:5

ALL: 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. Psalm 32:1-2

**\*Grace and Peace**

Grace and peace, oh, how can this be?  
For lawbreakers and thieves, for the worthless, the least,  
You have said, that our judgment is death,  
For all eternity, without hope, without rest

(chorus)

[Oh,] what an amazing mystery, what an amazing mystery  
That Your grace has come to me

Grace and peace, oh, how can this be?  
The matchless King of all, paid the blood price for me!  
Slaughtered lamb, what atonement You bring!  
The vilest sinner's heart, can be cleansed, can be free

(repeat chorus)

Grace and peace, oh how can this be?  
Let songs of gratefulness, ever rise, never cease,  
Loved by God, and called as a saint,  
My heart is satisfied, in the riches of Christ

(repeat chorus 2x)

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**\*THE PROFESSION OF FAITH: Colossians 1:15-20**

**ALL: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.  
For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth,  
visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—  
all things were created through him and for him.  
And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. .  
And he is the head of the body, the church.  
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,  
that in everything he might be preeminent.  
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

### **\*For All the Saints**

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.  
Alleluia, Allelu...

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.  
Alleluia, Allelu...

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia, Allelu...

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of glory passes on his way,  
Alleluia, Allelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Words: William How; Music ©1997, Christopher Miner Music.UBP.ARR.CCLI#245668

### **\*Awake, My Soul, to Sing**

Awake, my soul, to sing of Jesus' mercy  
For neither death nor sin will conquer thee  
Christ did my ransom pay while I preferred my stains  
When Jesus died for me

Awake, my soul, to sing of Jesus' merit  
When God His judgment brings, hide me in Thee  
While robed in righteousness, I will not fear it  
Since Jesus died for me

Awake, my soul, to sing of Jesus' blessing  
Whose love lays hold of me and bids me see  
He guides and guards my loves, and I am yielded  
Since Jesus died for me

Awake, my soul, to sing of Jesus' promise  
Whose Word and victory will changeless be  
For Christ's I am today and Christ's I will be  
Since Jesus died for me  
Since Jesus died for me  
Since Jesus died for me

Words and Music by Ryan Mayo ©2011

## **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 [5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE] HEAD DIRECTLY TO ROOM 7)

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

## THE WORD AND PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

**Ephesians 5:15-17**

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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: Michael Lemon & Larry Swinson  
Available for prayer after 10:45 worship: Kim Grubbs & Warran Wiebe

# THE SENDING

## \*THE BENEDICTION

### \*The Love of Christ is Rich and Free

The love of Christ is rich and free; fixed on His own eternally;  
Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove; long as He lives, His own He'll love.

His loving heart engaged to be their everlasting Surety;  
'Twas love that took their cause in hand, and love maintains it to the end.

(chorus)

Love cannot from its post withdraw;  
Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law,  
Can turn the Surety's heart away;  
He'll love His own to endless day.

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood; and love will bring them safe to God;  
Love calls them all from death to life; and love will finish all their strife.

(repeat chorus)

At death, beyond the grave, He'll love; in endless bliss, His own shall prove  
The blazing glory of that love which never could from them remove.  
Which never could from them remove.

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\*Congregation will stand.