

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, September 6, 2020

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 8:38-39**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

**Greeting and Blessing**

**Responsive Reading**

Psalm 84 (p. 814)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

**My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may have her young—

**a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.**

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

**Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.**

As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs;  
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

**They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.**

Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob.

**Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.**

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor;

**no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.**

O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

**Hymn of Preparation**

Hymn 6

### ***O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord***

O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord thy Maker, and all within me bless his holy name;  
Bless thou the Lord, forget not all his mercies, his pard'ning grace and saving love proclaim.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.*

Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion, most slow to anger, plenteous in love;  
Rich is his grace to all that humbly seek him, boundless and endless as the heav'ns above.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.*

His love is like a father's to his children, tender and kind to all who fear his name;  
For well he knows our weakness and our frailty, he knows that we are dust, he knows our frame.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.*

We fade and die like flow'rs that grow in beauty, like tender grass that soon will disappear;  
But evermore the love of God is changeless, still shown to those who look to him in fear.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.*

High in the heav'ns his throne is fixed forever, his kingdom rules o'er all from pole to pole;  
Bless ye the Lord through all his wide dominion, bless his most holy name, O thou my soul.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight. Amen.*

## Congregational Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Gracious God, we believe that you are holy and perfect. We feel unworthy to enter into your presence because we again have failed to keep all your commandments.

**All:** We confess that we have sinned against you and others in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We acknowledge that we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, and mind, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, we pray, and grant us your forgiveness. Cause us to lay aside the sin which clings so closely, and equip us to run with endurance the race that is set before us.

**All:** We ask all this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Amen.

## Private Confession of Our Sins

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 3:21-24

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

### First Reading

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

### Congregational Response

Hymn 170

#### *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
And all the twinkling, starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be thine. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 73.** *Which is the eighth commandment?*

**A.** The eighth commandment is, “You shall not steal.”

**Q. 74.** *What is required in the eighth commandment?*

**A.** The eighth commandment requires that we utilize only lawful means in obtaining and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

**Q. 75.** *What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?*

**A.** The eighth commandment forbids whatever does, or may, unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor’s, wealth or outward estate.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

### Doxology

Hymn 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### 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.

## THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

### Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

### Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 84])

Hymn 371 (*music on pg. 5*)

#### *O Lord of Hosts, How Lovely*

O Lord of Hosts, how lovely the place where thou dost dwell!

Thy tabernacles holy in pleasantness excel.

My soul is longing, fainting, Jehovah’s courts to see;

My heart and flesh are crying, O living God, for thee.

Blest who thy house inhabit, they ever give thee praise;  
Blest all whom thou dost strengthen, who love the sacred ways.

So they from strength unwearied go forward unto strength,  
Till they appear in Zion before the Lord at length.

O hear, Lord God of Jacob, to me an answer yield;  
The face of thine anointed, behold, O God, our shield.  
One day excels a thousand if spent thy courts within;  
I’ll choose thy threshold, rather than dwell in tents of sin.

Our sun and shield, Jehovah, will grace and glory give;  
No good will he deny them that uprightly do live.

O God of hosts, Jehovah, how blest is ev’ry one  
Who confidence reposes on thee, O Lord, alone. Amen.

## Pastoral Prayer

### Sermon

Pastor Clayton Willis

“The Transforming Power of the Gospel”  
1 Thessalonians 1:5-7

1. The Gospel Comes in Word and Power (v. 5)
2. The Gospel is Received (vv. 5, 6)
3. The Gospel Creates Disciples (vv. 6, 7)

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

### Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 335

#### *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would gracious be;  
And with words that help and heal would thy life in mine reveal;  
And with actions bold and meek would for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would truthful be;  
And with wisdom kind and clear let thy life in mine appear;  
And with actions brotherly speak my Lord’s sincerity.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would mighty be;  
Mighty so as to prevail where unaided man must fail;  
Ever by a mighty hope pressing on and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would holy be;  
Separate from sin, I would choose and cherish all things good,  
And whatever I can be, give to him who gave me thee! Amen.

### Benediction

#### Congregational Benediction Response

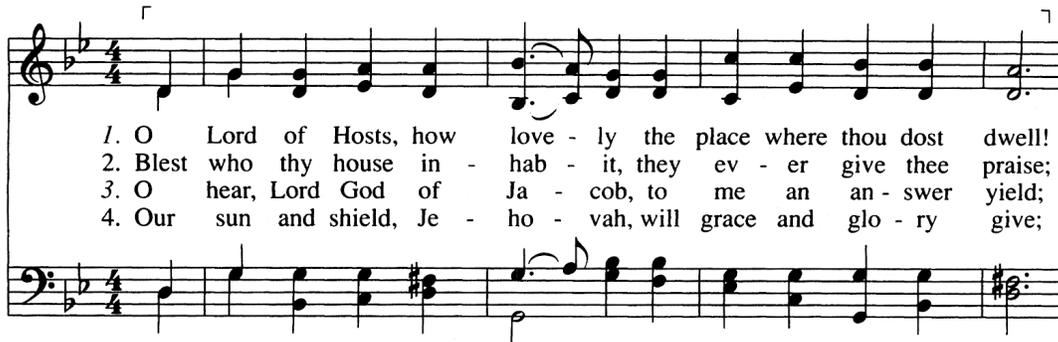
(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit, be to God and God alone!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

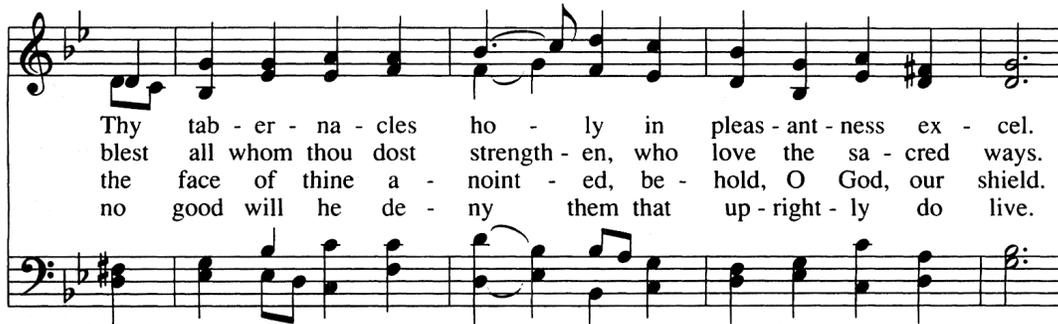
# O Lord of Hosts, How Lovely

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*How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! Ps. 84:1*



1. O Lord of Hosts, how love - ly the place where thou dost dwell!  
2. Blest who thy house in - hab - it, they ev - er give thee praise;  
3. O hear, Lord God of Ja - cob, to me an an - swer yield;  
4. Our sun and shield, Je - ho - vah, will grace and glo - ry give;



Thy tab - er - na - cles ho - ly in pleas - ant - ness ex - cel.  
blest all whom thou dost strength - en, who love the sa - cred ways.  
the face of thine a - noint - ed, be - hold, O God, our shield.  
no good will he de - ny them that up - right - ly do live.



My soul is long - ing, faint - ing, Je - ho - vah's courts to see;  
So they from strength un - wea - ried go for - ward un - to strength,  
One day ex - cels a thou - sand if spent thy courts with - in;  
O God of hosts, Je - ho - vah, how blest is ev - 'ry - one



my heart and flesh are cry - ing, O liv - ing God, for thee.  
till they ap - pear in Zi - on be - fore the Lord at length.  
I'll choose thy thresh - old, rath - er than dwell in tents of sin.  
who con - fi - dence re - pos - es on thee, O Lord, a - lone.

From Psalm 84  
Associate Reformed Presbyterian *Psalter*, 1931; alt. 1961

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6.D.  
Welsh hymn melody  
David Evans's *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865

## **LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS**

Is it important that our lives reflect our faith? Can we claim to truly believe the gospel and not live according to the commands of our Savior given to us in holy Scripture? The Apostle Paul makes it clear that true, saving faith is worked out in a life of obedience. The new believers in Thessalonica were commended for imitating the faithful obedience of Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy (1 Thess. 1:6). Their lives were then an example of godliness and a testimony to the truth and power of the gospel to other believers in the region.

This is true for us as well. We ought to strive to live as imitators of the Lord so that the truth and power of the gospel is heard in our profession of faith and also seen in how we live. In this way we are a faithful witness and example to other believers, and also to the world.

1. In what ways are election, regeneration, and faith seen in your life?
2. Who can you look to as an example of faithful Christian living? (Besides the Lord Jesus, of course!) What Christ-like qualities do you see in them that make them a good example to imitate?
3. Who might look to you as an example of Christlikeness? How can you encourage others to be imitators of Christ?

# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.  
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

## **Monday, September 7**

Scripture: Song of Solomon 5:1 - 8:14; 2 Cor. 9:1-15; Psalm 51:1-19; Prov. 22:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 19

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

## **Tuesday, September 8**

Scripture: Isaiah 1:1 - 2:22; 2 Corinthians 10:1-18; Psalm 52:1-9; Proverbs 22:26-27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 92

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

## **Wednesday, September 9**

Scripture: Isaiah 3:1 - 5:30; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15; Psalm 53:1-6; Proverbs 22:28-29

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 93

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.  
The churches in Vanuatu and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, September 10**

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1 - 7:25; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33; Psalm 54:1-7; Proverbs 23:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 94

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

## **Friday, September 11**

Scripture: Isaiah 8:1 - 9:21; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Psalm 55:1-23; Proverbs 23:4-5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 95

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

## **Saturday, September 12**

Scripture: Isaiah 10:1 - 11:16; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21; Psalm 56:1-13; Proverbs 23:6-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 96

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

## **Sunday, September 13**

Scripture: Isaiah 12:1 - 14:32; 2 Corinthians 13:1-14; Psalm 57:1-11; Proverbs 23:9-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 97

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

# MISSIONS CORNER

*Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain  
and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.*

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