

## Lord's Day Morning Worship

### *Call to Worship – Hebrews 7:22-25*

*There was a very practical reason for having many priests in Old Testament worship: they kept dying. The exact opposite is true of Jesus: He keeps living, and He will do so forever! That is why He alone is the Priest over our worship, and this teaches us two important things: (1) Jesus is absolutely able to save absolutely everyone who hopes in Him; (2) Jesus never stops doing the work of commending us to God.*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Song – #271, Sing, Choirs of New Jerusalem*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him*

### *Serial Reading – Mark 11:27-12:27*

*Jesus receives His authority from God the Father, who sent His beloved Son on a mission to get for the Father what He wants from His church. And while the son in the parable is ambushed, Jesus shows that this is not the case with himself. Neither the Pharisees nor the Sadducees are able to trap Him; rather, when He dies, He is going to die of His own will—He is going to lay down His life for the sheep, and He is going to take it up again. As He proves from Exodus 3, resurrection is real, and what Jesus accomplishes for us in His death and resurrection is so glorious that it makes even marriage obsolete!*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Song – #542, Who Are These Like Stars Appearing*

### *Weekly Prayer of the Congregation*

*Preaching – Genesis 26:22-25*

**God's Grace: Steady**

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Song – #460, Amazing Grace*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Pronouncement of God's Blessing upon His People*

## Guide to the Morning Service

After the announcements, the elders of the church gather to ask God, on behalf of the congregation, for His help for the service and His blessing upon it. During this time, it would be appropriate for you to do the same for yourself and your children, teaching them to do the same. The hope of this guide is that (among other things) it will help you think and pray through the service as we prepare together.

**Call to Worship**—The entire book of Hebrews was originally a sermon about the gathered worship services of Christian congregations; and, the Holy Spirit included it in Scripture as a letter. So every phrase of this book has a direct application to what we do in our gathered Lord's Day services. Last year, we began by taking a series of selections through the book as the Scriptures that called us together to mark the start of the service. Then, we returned to the beginning of the book to take it phrase by phrase. In the current section, God is telling us about how Jesus' priesthood connects our worship services to glory.

**Song, Sing Choirs of New Jerusalem**—With this section in Hebrews 7, we've been singing this resurrection hymn about Jesus victory and priesthood over our worship. The choirs of old Jerusalem are gone! That's because they were Levitical priestly choirs. Now, with Christ as our Great Priest, the entire congregation of believers—across time and space and in glory—is the choir in Christian worship!

**Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him**—we ask God to accept our worship through Jesus, even as He has promised. And with hearts inflamed with grateful love, we ask that God—also for Jesus' sake—will help us offer worship that is according to God's instructions and therefore fitting and excellent and beautiful in the sight of God.

**Bible Reading, Mark 11:27-12:27**—although the entire Bible teaches the good news that GOD SAVES SINNERS, we are always reading in those books that specifically focus on what Jesus did and taught (including Acts and Revelation, which describe Christ's completion of His work in the history of the church) for our salvation. Where we left off last week, Jesus had been to the temple a couple times during His final week and is preparing to die; this week, he is challenged by the Pharisees and Sadducees.

**Song, Who Are These Like Stars Appearing**—Jesus has in fact accomplished the mission for which His Father sent Him to earth, and He continues now to apply to us by His Spirit all the benefits of His victory. As our Prophet, Priest, and King, He is in the business of resurrecting people's souls, counting them righteous through faith in Him, and preparing them for the bodily resurrection by making them holy. This work is so sure that we already sing our joy in the end result!

**Weekly Prayer of the Congregation**—just as God especially sets apart His Word and sacraments to be used for His work in us, so also He sets apart congregational prayer. In this prayer, especially, we bring to our heavenly Father our congregation's weekly concerns.

**Preaching, Genesis 26:23-33**—we continue to see God's grace at work in the life of Isaac, and to think about how God's grace is at work in our lives because of Jesus, the offspring whom Isaac was promised.

**Song, Amazing Grace**—having rejoiced in God's grace through hearing, we now rejoice in God's grace through singing

**Pronouncement of God's Blessing**—God sends us out of His called worship gatherings with a final, condensed announcement of His favor upon His people

Please stay for fellowship after the service. Let us who have been welcomed by Christ welcome others!

Lord's Day Evening Worship

*Call to Worship – Psalm 147:15-20*

*The climax of that for which God's people praise Him is His Word. Through His Word, He not only created all things, but He also runs the universe with irresistible power! And it is to His people that He has given that Word. For every situation, He tells us what to do (statutes) and what to think (judgments). For this highest blessing, let us praise Him!!*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Song – #179, Hallelujah! Thine the Glory*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him*

*Serial Reading – Jeremiah 22:11-30*

*We three kings served only 'me', from worship and justice our ruling was free; poor or Creator, subjects and Maker, pretended that we did not see. That's the story behind these verses. The story of the verses themselves is that God does see even to our hearts, and God does judge all that He sees with perfect and precise justice.*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Song – #16, Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Song – #316, The Mighty God, the Lord*

*Lord's Day Evening Prayer*

*Preaching – Romans 10:4-13*

**O.T. Learning, N.T. Knowing**

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Song – #189, Jesus Loves Me*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Song – #693, Blessed Assurance*

<sup>STANDING</sup> *Pronouncement of God's Blessing upon His People*

Guide to the Evening Service

What a blessing that as we who have the Spirit groan for glory, our merciful Father has sprinkled throughout our straining forward: not Lord's hours, nor Lord's mornings, but entire and rich and joyful Lord's *Days*. So let us conclude the day together in worship!

**Call to Worship**—how are Christians to think and feel in various situations? God has given us an entire book of the Bible to show what it looks like for us sinners—by grace—to think and feel with the mind and heart of Christ. It is a book of songs, largely sung prayers, that provides the molds of grace within which our emotions can be shaped by the heart and mind of Jesus. What a wonderful gift! And so we have our evening calls to worship from this songbook, especially using those texts in which there are commands for God's people to gather for worship.

**Song, Hallelujah! Thine the Glory**—the last line of our Psalm is "Praise Yahweh!" 'Hallelujah' is a contraction of the Hebrew phrase that commands just that. In particular, this song focuses upon praising God for how He has revealed Himself to us and scattered our night, just as we have heard in the call.

**Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him**—confidently because of Christ, we ask God to accept our worship. And with hearts inflamed with grateful love, we ask that God—also for Jesus' sake—will help us offer worship that is according to the Bible and therefore fitting, excellent, and beautiful as defined by God.

**Bible Reading, Jeremiah 22:11-30**—with the exception of a few comfortable passages, the major prophets may be the least read and understood part of the Bible. But they are rich in the greatness of God's grace. They hold before us the greatness of our sin and danger, so that we will know the greatness of God's grace and mercy! Jeremiah in particular tells us about how we bring our own destruction upon our heads by listening to words that we like, instead of God's true words; by worship of other gods; and, by idolatrous worship of the true God. But he also tells us about a God of grace who insists on saving a people for Himself, which means that He intends to save a people that He actually *makes* righteous *from the inside out*.

**Songs, Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord and The Mighty God, the Lord**—Psalms 50 and 98 give us God's own words with which to sing how the certainty of His perfect judgment, which at one time was a terror to us, is because of His salvation a joy and comfort as we look forward to the return of our Judge and SAVIOR.

**Lord's Day Evening Prayer**—as we come to close the Lord's Day, we thank God together for the blessings of the day, and take one last opportunity to adore Him with united hearts in prayer, before asking Him for this blessing and adoration to penetrate and saturate our weeks, until we come together again—either for another Lord's Day and its gatherings, or for the Great Day of the Lord, and the gathering of the entire number of all the elect for our eternal Sabbath rest.

**Preaching, Romans 10:4-13**—if Christ for righteousness is the end of the Law, are we saying that the Old Testament is less valuable now? And if God's Old Testament words are as valuable as God's New Testament words, then how can we be sure that what has happened to so many Jews won't now happen to Christians?

**Songs, Jesus Loves Me and Blessed Assurance**—let us sing the sure confidence of God's salvation and blessing, that we have in what the Bible tells us about Jesus, as shown in what God has done in our hearts.

**Pronouncement of God's Blessing**—God sends us out of His called worship gatherings with a final, condensed announcement of His favor upon His people

Please stay to fellowship and celebrate the Lord's Day with us at the afterparty!