

Call to Worship – Hebrews 9:13-14

How can my service be acceptable to God? The physical access to the tabernacle through animal blood provided a peek. Jesus makes us completely spiritually acceptable to God. Through His blood, we offer our service not as dead works, but as service that God receives with favor for Jesus' sake. So let us offer the service of worship!

^{STANDING} *Songs – #242, Not All the Blood of Beasts
#463, A Debtor to Mercy Alone*

^{STANDING} *Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him*

Serial Reading – Mark 15:40-16:8

Courage and care. Joseph of Arimathea offered those to Jesus when He was still a corpse. The book of Mark ends abruptly at the end of v8 challenging us with this fact and this question, even as the women temporarily answer poorly: fact—Jesus is no longer a corpse; question—will you now take courage and serve Him with care?

^{STANDING} *Song – #274, Thine Be the Glory*

Weekly Prayer of the Congregation

*Preaching – Genesis 26:34-28:9
Sovereign Grace*

^{STANDING} *Song – #460, Amazing Grace*

^{STANDING} *Pronouncement of God's Blessing upon His People*

^{STANDING} *Parting Song, #274, Refrain Only, "Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son..."*

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

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 the superiority of Jesus-led worship that rests upon His finished work and eternal intercession.

Songs, *Not All the Blood of Beasts* and *A Debtor to Mercy Alone*—Let us sing with joy and peace how Jesus' blood cleanses our conscience and makes us confident of the favor of God forever.

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 15:40-16:8—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.

Song, *Thine Be the Glory*—Oh let us take courage and serve Christ unto His glory; His resurrection is the power through which we are more than conquerors!

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 26:34-28:9—Esau's marriages provide the bookends, but God's unthwartable plan to bless Jacob provides the theme. This is a passage about sovereign grace, which is exactly what we hope to hear in the preaching this morning.

Song, *Amazing Grace*—Having been amazed by God's grace in the preaching of His Word, let us respond by singing that grace with all of our heart!

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

Call to Worship – Psalm 150

If Yahweh is to be praised according to His excellent greatness, then everything that has breath must praise Him with all their might—and even this is not enough. All of the glorious ones in the heavens must praise Him as well.

^{STANDING} *Song – #18, You Holy Angels Bright*

^{STANDING} *Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him*

Serial Reading – Jeremiah 28

Whether it's the death of a prophet or the destruction of a nation, God's word always comes true. Not everything that sounds pleasant is necessarily true—even Jeremiah would have loved for Hananiah to be right! But alas, instead of preaching gospel, Hananiah was just blowing smoke. Not only does false preaching do its hearers no good; it actually does them harm—swapping out yokes of wood for yokes of iron.

^{STANDING} *Song – #59, Forever Settled in the Heavens*

Lord's Day Evening Prayer

Preaching – Romans 11:17-24
Humble Church Members

^{STANDING} *Song – #342, Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

The Lord's Supper

^{STANDING} *Song – #424, Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless*

^{STANDING} *Pronouncement of God's Blessing upon His People*

^{STANDING} *Parting Song, #731, Doxology*

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

What a blessing that as we who have the Spirit groan towards 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 currently, 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, You Holy Angels Bright—Let us sing this paraphrase of Psalm 148 that might as well have been a paraphrase of these thoughts from Psalm 150 as well.

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 28—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*.

Song, Forever Settled in the Heavens—Let us sing the absolute certainty and reliability of God's Word!

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 11:17-24—Let us never find our confidence from being in God's church, but only always from the kindness of God in Christ!

Song, Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation—We are not a people who once rested upon Christ, but a people who rest completely upon Christ forever.

The Lord's Supper—Our Lord invites us to sup with Him and upon Him at His table. Let us come to be nourished upon Christ by the ministry of His Spirit!

Song, Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless—And let us sing our prayer that Jesus would continue to minister to us by His Spirit the benefits of which we have partaken at His table.

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