



# Celebration of Worship

August 25, 2024

## Prelude

*The Prelude is a time to begin transitioning from fellowshiping with our neighbors to preparing our hearts to worship God.*

*Please adjust all electronic devices so as not to interrupt the service.*

## Welcome and Announcements

*Welcome to all our visitors. Please fill out the guest registration to let us know of your visit.*

## Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship

Almighty and everlasting God, who is always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than either we desire, or deserve; Pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy; forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

### Call to Worship

from Psalm 84

Pastor: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

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

Pastor: 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.

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

## **\*Invocation and Adoration**

*The invocation should acknowledge that our worship is in vain if it is not Spirit-inspired. Often, the invocation will also employ the language of adoration and praise, which is very fitting in light of the vertical, God-focused dimension of this prayer.*

## **\*Worship in Song**

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***Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven***

(from Psalm 103)

## **Public Confession of Sin**

ALL: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us. And grant, O most merciful Father, for Jesus' sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and joyful life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

## **Silent Prayer of Confession**

### **Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel**

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*  
~Hebrews 12.2

### **Corporate Confession of Faith – Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.\* The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

\* Indicates please stand if able.

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.

\*Some versions of the Creed omit this phrase; it was inserted to affirm the reality of Christ's physical death;

\*\*or universal; this phrase simply refers to the fact that the Church is made up of believers of all times in all nations.

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## **PETITIONING GOD'S PROVIDENCE**

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### **Testimony of God's Work**

### **Prayers of God's People**

*(The pastor will lead us in prayer, reading submitted praises and requests)*

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## **ADORING GOD'S GLORY**

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### **Public Reading of Scripture**

**John 20:19-23**

*(Lectio Continua – the practice of reading Scripture in sequence)*

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*Scripture Context:*

*Jesus continues his dialogue with the Jewish religious leaders and leaves them stunned when He reveals His relationship to Abraham.*

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Leader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **The Giving of First Fruits**

*Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. ~Proverbs 3:9-10*

### **\*The Doxology**

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

\* Indicates please stand if able.

## **\*Prayer of Thanks and Dedication**

### **\*Worship in Song**

#### ***Who You Say I Am***

##### Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King, Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in, Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

##### ***Chorus***

***Who the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am***

##### Verse 2

Free at last, He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me

##### ***Chorus***

***Who the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house, There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am***

##### Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am who You say I am

Chorus

Who the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
/ In my Father's house, There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am /

Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan  
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***His Mercy Is More***

***Chorus***

***Praise the Lord His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more***

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

***Chorus***

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

***Chorus***

## Verse 3

What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

### **Chorus**

***Praise the Lord His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more***

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa

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## **PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

### **Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon Text:**

**Psalm 63**

**Preaching of the Word**

**Rev. Dr. Gary Cox**

***Zealously Loving God – Staying Spiritually Healthy***

**\*Closing Hymn**

**349**

***O Thou Who the Shepherd of Israel Art***

**(from Psalm 80)**

### **\*Benediction**

Just as God has the first word in worship, he also has the last word. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing. We look up and extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.

\* Indicates please stand if able.

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# Postlude

\* Indicates please stand if able.

Memory Verse of the Week:

**Deuteronomy 6:4-5** <sup>4</sup> "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

\* Indicates please stand if able.