

# **MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

*The Lord's Day*

**September 17, 2023**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Welcome & Announcements: Travis Skillingstad**

**Prelude: Amy Reber**

*Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me*

*By Michael Farren, arranged by Mark Hayes*

**Call to Worship: Psalm 138:1-2**

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; <sup>2</sup> I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

**The Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise 76 (vss. 1-3, 5)**

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
To his feet your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me, his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him, still the same forever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless;  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise him, praise him,  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes;  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise him, praise him,  
Widely as his mercy goes.

Angels, help us to adore him;

You behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise with us the God of grace.

### **Confession of Sin: Pastor Mike Palombo**

#### **Need of Confession: Romans 7:21-24**

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

#### **Personal Confession of Sin**

#### **Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)**

**Lord, our hearts are restless. They are deceitful and full of wickedness. Yet You are gracious because of Christ. Lord, we ask that our hearts find their rest in You. Here are our hearts, Lord. We offer them to You, promptly and sincerely, for the sake of Your Son. Amen. (Adapted from Augustine, Jeremiah 17:9 and John Calvin's motto)**

#### **Assurance of Pardon: Romans 7:25-8:1**

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. <sup>8</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

### **The Confession of Faith: Adoption, from WCF, Ch. 12**

**All those that are justified, God guarantees, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God, have his name put upon them, receive the spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry, Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a Father: yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption; and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.**

### **Song of Praise**

*Before the Throne of God Above*  
Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong, and perfect plea,  
A great High Priest whose name is love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands,  
My name is written on his heart;  
I know that while in heav'n he stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,

And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see him there  
Who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on him and pardon me,  
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb,  
My perfect spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable "I Am",  
The King of glory and of grace.  
One with himself I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased by his blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ,  
And marvel at this love divine,  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes.  
This river's depths I cannot know,  
But I can glory in its flood;  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low,  
And poured on me his glorious love,  
And poured on me his glorious love.

This river's depths I cannot know,  
But I can glory in its flood;  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low,  
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#### **The Lord's Prayer / Pastoral 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.**

#### **Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

#### **Offertory: Chancel Choir & Handbell Choir**

##### ***How Can It Be?***

*Music by Gabriel Faure, arranged by Lloyd Larson*

## Doxology

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.

### *Sermon Series: Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Renew*

#### *Prayer and Preparation: Nehemiah 2:1-20*

**Pastor Jeff Birch**

**2** In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. **2** And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid. **3** I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” **4** Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. **5** And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.” **6** And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. **7** And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, **8** and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.” And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me. **9** Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. **10** But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

**11** So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. **12** Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. **13** I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. **14** Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. **15** Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. **16** And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

**17** Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision.” **18** And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, “Let us rise up and build.” So they strengthened their hands for the good work. **19** But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” **20** Then I replied to them, “The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.”

## Hymn 441

### *Jesus Shall Reign*

Jesus shall reign wher - e'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown him head.  
His name like sweet perfume shall  
Rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;  
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
Peculiar honors to our King,  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen!

## Postlude

*\*All songs covered by CCLI license #1257045*