

# **Morning Worship**

**Sunday, October 10, 2021**

Most people hope to go to heaven when they die. This is not surprising, given the generally acknowledged alternatives (either hell or nothingness). However, it is quite revealing to ask people what they hope to do when they get to heaven. Most people anticipate the joys of this world writ large: golf courses with no sand traps or water hazards, heavenly mansions with no worries about mortgage payments. If they could have all of those things without leaving this planet, they would be more than content. Christians, however, long for heaven because they long to be in the nearer presence of the God whom they love with all their hearts, joining in the unstinted, eternal worship of the Lamb.

—Iain Duguid

## *Let us Draw Near to God*

### **Call to Worship**

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

### **Prayer of Invocation**

*We ask God's presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.*

## *We Confess Our Sins*

### **Call to Confession**

**Matthew 9:12-13**

But when Jesus heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

### **Prayer of Confession**

Compassionate Father,

We confess to you that we don't want to need your mercy. When we see ourselves as righteous before you, we become lovers of ourselves instead of lovers of mercy; we perform to try to impress you instead of showing mercy because we ourselves have been profoundly rescued. Religious duties become more important than loving people, and we easily become blind to the needs of those around us. Sometimes caring for others even becomes the very duty we use to justify ourselves. God, forgive us and have mercy on us.

Father, you have shown us great mercy through the sacrifice of your Son. You piled the awful weight of our sin on Jesus and crushed him in our place, and through his atoning death we have inherited every spiritual blessing imaginable. Dissolve our cool, indifferent hearts with the blazing truth of your astonishing love for us in Christ.

Jesus, you have been merciful to us and for us. You knit yourself to human flesh and walked through this sin-sick world with eyes of love that saw the overwhelming needs of those around you. You loved and cared for people in their suffering, even when they invaded your privacy and disrupted your plans. Serving others was your spiritual duty, so you healed on the Sabbath without confusion or guilt. So now, even though we are confirmed lovers of ourselves and often calloused to the suffering of others, we are credited with all of your loving compassion, as though we had done it ourselves. Jesus, how can we ever thank you?

Holy Spirit, keep us mindful of our weakness and sin so that we will come to love the righteousness of Jesus. Melt our stony hearts with gratitude for the mercy we have received until compassion and love flow out of us like a river. Help us to die to our own desires, schedules, agendas, and wisdom, and open our eyes to see the people you want us to love. Give us joyful confidence that you have prepared good works for us to do, and that we will walk in them because you always get your

way. Cover our shameful lack of mercy and love for others with the glorious obedience of Jesus, and may our growing love for him compel us to face a needy world with peace and real power to help. Amen

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Psalm 103:8-14**

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

### **Lord Have Mercy (For What We Have Done)**

For what we have done and left undone  
We fall on Your countless mercies  
For sins that are known and those unknown  
We call on Your name so holy  
For envy and pride, for closing our eyes  
For scorning our very neighbor  
In thought word and deed we've failed You our King  
How deeply we need a Savior

Lord have mercy Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy on us  
Lord have mercy Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy on us

For what You have done Your life of love  
You perfectly lived we praise You  
Though tempted and tried You fixed Your eyes  
You finished the work God gave You  
And there on the tree A King among thieves  
You bled for a world's betrayal  
You loved to the end Our merciful friend  
How pure and forever faithful

Lord have mercy Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy on us (2x)

For hearts that are cold for seizing control  
For scorning our very Maker  
In thought word and deed we've failed You our King  
How deeply we need a Savior

Lord have mercy Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy on us (4x)

### **Gospel Doxology**

Your perfect Law exposes me; I feel my sin and desperate need.  
My best good works are powerless to satisfy your righteousness.

But there is One who lived for me; his life, my only victory,  
His death forever sealed in time that I am his and he is mine.

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.

### **Affirmation of Faith**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

Christian, what do you believe?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, 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 thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

## **Prayer for the Church and Congregation**

### ***God Reveals Himself to Us in the Reading of His Word***

#### **Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 12: 1-14**

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. <sup>2</sup> But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” <sup>3</sup> He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: <sup>4</sup> how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? <sup>5</sup> Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? <sup>6</sup> I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup> And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. <sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

<sup>9</sup> He went on from there and entered their synagogue. <sup>10</sup> And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”— so that they might accuse him. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup> Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” <sup>13</sup> Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. <sup>14</sup> But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

#### **Sermon**

#### **Lord of the Sabbath**

Rev. Lincoln Larsen

## ***Christ Was Given for Us and to Us***

### **The Lord's Supper**

*All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.*

### ***Song of Preparation:***

#### **Hide Away in the Love of Jesus**

Come weary saints, though tired and weak, hide away in the love of Jesus;  
Your strength will return by his quiet streams, hide away in the love of Jesus.  
*Hear him calling your name see the depths of his love*  
*In the wounds of his grace, hide away, hide away.*

Come wand'ring souls, and find your home, hide away in the love of Jesus;  
He offers the rest that you yearn to know, hide away in the love of Jesus.  
*Refrain*

Come guilty ones, weighed down with sin, hide away in the love of Jesus;  
The freedom you long for is found in him, hide away in the love of Jesus.  
*Refrain*

Come hopeless hearts, do not despair, hide away in the love of Jesus;  
For ten thousand joys await you there, hide away in the love of Jesus.

### **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

Rev. Lincoln Larsen

## ***Songs of Response:***

### **Lift High the Name of Jesus**

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our King.  
Make known the power of his grace, the beauty of his peace.  
Remember how his mercy reached and we cried out to him.  
He lifted us to solid ground, to freedom from our sin.  
*Oh sing my soul, and tell all he's done,  
Till the earth and heavens are filled with his glory!*

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our Lord.  
His power in us is greater than, is greater than this world.  
To share the reason for our hope, to serve with love and grace,  
That all who see him shine through us; might bring the Father praise. *Chorus*

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our Light.  
No other name on earth can save, can raise a soul to life.  
He opens up our eyes to see the harvest he has grown.  
We labor in his fields of grace as he leads sinners home. *Chorus*

### **My Hope is Built On Nothing Less**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When Darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

## **Benediction**

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