

# The Worship of God

on March 22, 2020, 11:00 a.m.



## Prayer of Invocation

LORD, be here with us now in the stillness of this sacred hour, in the company of the saints who have worshipped You in spirit and in truth. Lift my heart to You, O God. Purify us so that, going forth into the world, we may go in Your strength and in Your love, through Jesus our Lord. Amen

## Hymn of Praise #20

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day! Amen*

## Call to Worship

*(from Psalm 22)*

“From You comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those who fear Him.  
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek Him shall praise the LORD!  
May your hearts live forever!  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.  
For kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations.”

## Prayer of Confession (in unison):

Father in Heaven, You are a firm and secure place for our souls. Still, I often neglect Your ways. You call me to draw near by faith, yet I often **cover in fear**. You call me to hold fast to our hope, yet I **grasp at vain things**. You call me to love my neighbor as myself, yet I am tempted to **grumble against them**, offering criticisms instead of encouragements. Lord, forgive me and refine me. Conform my heart and all my life to Yours.

## Private Confessions (silently before God)

## Words of Assurance

*Ephesians 2:8-10*

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

**Gloria Patri** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.*

## Affirmation of Faith (all in unison)

*(Heidelberg Catechism)*

Q1: What is your only comfort in life and death?

A: That I with body and soul, both in life and death,  
am not my own,  
but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ;  
who with his precious blood,  
hath fully satisfied for all my sins,  
and delivered me from all the power of the devil;  
and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father,  
not a hair can fall from my head;  
indeed, all things must be subservient to my salvation,  
and therefore, by his Holy Spirit,  
He also assures me of eternal life,  
and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth,  
to live unto Him.

## Prayers of the People (Name and pray for your and others' specific needs)

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

**Hymn #303**

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

*Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

*Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all. Amen*

**Prayer of Illumination** *(Pray the Holy Spirit would guide you in the Word)*

**Scripture Reading** *(Romans 12:1-2)*

**Unfolding the Word** *(Read and consider the questions about the text)*

**Sending Hymn #310**

*“Take My Life, and Let It Be...”*

*Take my life and let it be / Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days; / Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move / At the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be / Swift and beautiful for Thee,  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour / At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be / Ever, only, All for thee,  
Ever, only, All for thee. Amen*



**Romans 12:** <sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- 1) Identify the three specific things Paul wants his listeners to do.
- 2) How is presenting our “spiritual worship” similar or different to the worship described in Hebrews 9:1,6?
- 3) How does the event in Matthew 17:2 help us understand the nature of being “transformed” (and how might this compare)?
- 4) Why might it matter to us that we “discern” the will of God?
- 5) What are the specific foundations named for the actions Paul calls for? (Don’t miss the main one in verse one!)
- 6) What might these actions particularly look like for you in the coming week?