



Setting your heart on Heaven

*"...they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.
Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he
has prepared for them a city."*

(Hebrews 11.16)

Call to Worship

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!

**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
forever and ever. Amen!**

(Rev 5:12-13)

Let us pray.

**Sovereign Lord, our Heavenly Father,
it is our heart's desire, our deepest longing,
to know you, to love you, and to worship you.
It is our greatest pleasure,
our highest privilege, our chief delight,
to meet with you, the one true and living God,
and experience your grace and favour.
Grant us power by your Holy Spirit
to worship you now, in spirit and in truth.
Amen.**

(Valley of Vision)

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts to me.
My heart cries out and even faints,
the courts of God to see.
The sparrow finds a place to nest,
beside your throne of grace.
Oh how I long to find my rest,
and dwell with you always.

I'd rather live for just one day
and gaze upon my Lord.
Than spend a lifetime far away
from where your praise is heard.
There's no good thing you will withhold, from
those who follow you,
O Lord my sun and mighty shield
my soul will trust in you.

A pilgrim now for all my days,
my gaze is set above.
The desert blooms with autumn rains,
You bless the ones you love.
Your people go
from strength to strength,
until we see your face.
Your eyes are turned to us in love,
You hear us when we pray.

Confession and Assurance

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.
Please kneel or remain seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful God,
We confess to you that we are by nature
sinful and unclean,
And that we have sinned against You
in thought, word, and deed;
Not only in outward transgressions,
But also in secret thoughts and desires
that we are not able to understand,
But which are all known to You.
For this reason,
we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,
Seeking and imploring Your grace
for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

*“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isa 35:10)*

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength; each

one appears before God in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever, age after age. Amen!

God Speaks to us through His Word

First Reading: Exodus 19:1-8b - A Kingdom of Priests

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11.1-12.4

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Living in Difficult Days – Setting your heart on Heaven (Tim Iles)

Response to God's Word

Creed (Heidelberg Catechism)

Believer, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,
am not my own, but belong to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ,
who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins,
and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;
and so preserves me that without the will of my Father in heaven
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.
Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,
and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live unto Him.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Eternal Weight of Glory

Now the days and hours and moments
Of our suffering seem so long;
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
Threaten silence to our song.
Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak,
But our hope is set on Jesus;
And we cling to him, our strength.

Oh eternal weight of glory!
Oh inheritance divine!
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time.
All our pains will be transfigured,
Like the scars of Christ our Lord.
We will see the weight of glory,
And our broken years restored.

*For behold! I tell a myst'ry:
At the trumpet sound we'll wake
"Death is swallowed up in vict'ry!"
When we meet our King of Grace
Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song*

We will see our wounded Savior.
We'll behold him face to face;
And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace. *Refrain*

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Benediction and Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ, Amen.