



## Strange New Things and an Unknown God

*"He has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."  
(Acts 17:31)*

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### 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.

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## 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*

*"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." (Rom 8:1-2)*

## Psalm 115

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

**Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.**

Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

**The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.**

May the LORD give you increase, you and your children! May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth!

**The heavens are the LORD's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man. The dead do not praise the LORD, nor do any who go down into silence. But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!**

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!**

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## God Speaks to us through His Word

*First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 (The Ten Commandments)*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Second Reading: Acts 17:16-34*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon: Strange New Things and an Unknown God (Warren Trask)*

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## Response to God's Word

### *The Apostles Creed*

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

### *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.**

## *Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor*

Christ, the sure and steady anchor  
In the fury of the storm  
When the winds of doubt  
blow through me  
And my sails have all been torn.  
In the suff'ring, in the sorrow,  
When my sinking hopes are few,  
I will hold fast to the anchor;  
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor  
While the tempest rages on,  
When temptation claims the battle  
And it seems the night has won;  
Deeper still then goes the anchor  
Though I justly stand accused;  
I will hold fast to the anchor;  
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor  
Through the floods of unbelief;  
Hopeless somehow,  
O my soul,  
Now lift your eyes to Calvary.  
This, my ballast of assurance;  
See His love forever proved;  
I will hold fast to the anchor;  
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor  
As we face the wave of death,  
When these trials give way to glory,  
As we draw our final breath;  
We will cross that great horizon,  
Clouds behind and life secure,  
And the calm will be the better  
For the storms that we endure.

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## Benediction and Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ,  
Amen.**