



## The God of Heaven Reveals and Rules

*"Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings,  
and a revealer of mysteries."*

*(Dan 2:47)*

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### Call to Worship

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,  
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

**Lift up your hands to the holy place  
and bless the LORD!**

**May the LORD bless you from Zion,  
he who made heaven and earth!**

(Ps 134)

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, my inmost being  
Lift up high his holy name  
Bless the Lord, all that's within me  
Ponder all his deeds of grace  
He forgives our great transgression  
Heals and lifts us from the grave  
Crowns our life with love and mercy  
Satisfies us all our days

He brings justice for the needy  
Makes them rise on eagle's wings  
He made known his ways to Moses  
Shows to Israel his deeds  
He is merciful and gracious  
Slow to anger, rich in love  
He will turn aside his anger  
Shower blessings from above

For as high as highest heaven  
Is the Lord's unending love  
Far as East is from the West, he  
Has removed our sins from us  
Like a Father to his children  
He is merciful to us  
Shows compassion in our weakness  
He remembers we are dust

As for man, we bloom and flourish  
Like a flower of the grass  
Then we wither, then we perish  
All our days so quickly pass  
But God's love for those who fear him  
Will endure from age to age  
For our children and their children  
Those who walk in all his ways

He has set his throne in heaven  
All his purpose to fulfil  
Bless the Lord, O you his angels  
You who do his sovereign will  
Bless the Lord all you his servants  
You who tremble at his word  
Bless the Lord, all of creation  
O my soul now bless the Lord

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## Confession and Assurance

Hear what God's word says:

*"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether." (Ps 139:1-4)*

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 Father,  
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against your holy laws.  
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.  
Spare those who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises  
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**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 118 (v14-29)*

The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

**Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, the right hand of the Lord exalts, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!”**

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

**Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.**

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

**I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success!

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

**Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!**

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!**

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: Isaiah 8*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## *Second Reading: Daniel 2*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## *Sermon: The God of Heaven Reveals and Rules (Mark Payne)*

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# We Respond 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.**

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## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### *Invitation to the Table*

*All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.*

### *Gifts and Offerings*

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. "*Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce.*" (Pro 3:9)

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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*The stewards will distribute the wine and bread. Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Almighty God,**

**we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood  
of your dear Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Through him,**

**we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit**

**to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**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.**

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