



Draw Near to the Throne of Grace

“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.” (Heb 4:16)

God Calls us to Worship

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into his presence
with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise
to him with songs of praise!** *(Psalm 95: 1,2)*

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 65

Praise awaits you God in Zion
Soon to you all men will come
Though our sins prevail against us
You atone for every one
Blessed are those you
choose and welcome
Dwelling in your courts of grace
We are filled with every blessing
Satisfied in you always

Holy God and mighty Saviour
Hope of all the farthest seas
When we pray you hear and answer
You make known your wondrous deeds

By your strength you formed the mountains
Stilled the roaring of the waves
Earth rejoices at your goodness
Dawn and evening sing your praise

From your river ever-flowing
You give life to all the land
Autumn rains and grain at harvest
You provide for every man
All the year is crowned with bounty
Deserts bloom and hills bear fruit
Hills and valleys, all creation
Lift their hymn of praise to you

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We Confess and Are Assured

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 neighbour 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 be seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.
Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin!
For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.
Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.
Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51)**

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 59

Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
protect me from those who rise up against
me; deliver me from those who work evil,
and save me from bloodthirsty men.

**For behold, they lie in wait for my life;
fierce men stir up strife against me. For no
transgression or sin of mine, O Lord, for no
fault of mine, they run and make ready.**

Awake, come to meet me, and see! You, Lord
God of hosts, are God of Israel.

**Rouse yourself to punish all the nations;
spare none of those who treacherously
plot evil. Selah**

Each evening they come back, howling like

dogs and prowling about the city.

**There they are, bellowing with their
mouths with swords in their lips— for
“Who,” they think, “will hear us?”**

But you, O Lord, laugh at them; you hold all
the nations in derision. O my Strength, I will
watch for you, for you, O God, are my
fortress.

**My God in his steadfast love will meet me;
God will let me look in triumph on my
enemies.**

Kill them not, lest my people forget; make them totter by your power and bring them down, O Lord, our shield! For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips, let them be trapped in their pride.

For the cursing and lies that they utter, consume them in wrath; consume them till they are no more, that they may know that God rules over Jacob to the ends of the earth. Selah

Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city. They wander about for food and growl if they do not get their fill.

But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.

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: Micah 5:1-6, "The Ruler from Bethlehem"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-5:10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Draw Near to the Throne of Grace (Mark Payne)

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

We Celebrate 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)*

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

**Father, as we have received
these gifts of bread and wine,
you have fed us with the spiritual food
of the body and blood
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are members of his body.**

**Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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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We Are Blessed and Sent Out to the World

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

Sermon Notes

Today we return to the book of Hebrews at an important doorway into the next section.

By way of reminder:

- In 1:1-4, the writer (who is unknown) powerfully proclaimed that Jesus Christ is
 - The very Son of God
 - The creator, heir and sustainer of all being
 - Of the same essence as God the Father
 - The one who redeems us from sin and shame
 - Seated at God's right hand, enthroned as the Second Adam

And because of all this, Jesus the Son of God become man is

- Greater than the Angels (Ch 1, 2)
- Greater than the Prophets Moses & Joshua (Ch. 3-4:13)
- Greater than any High Priest (Ch 4:14-10:18)

Heb. 4:14-16 is like a 2-way door taking us from the second topic and into the third

- In the third topic/room he will fully unpacks what it means to have Jesus as our Great High Priest
- There's another matching 2-way door at the far end, namely Heb 10:19-25

Here the writer addresses three questions for the suffering, doubtful believer

1. Does God hear?
2. Does he understand?
3. Will he help?