



Living by Faith: Make Straight Paths

“Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees.” (Heb 12:12)

God Calls us to Worship

Behold, God is our salvation;
We will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD God is our strength and our song,
and he has become our salvation.

**Sing praises to the LORD,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.** (Isa 12)

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

© Matt Searles

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

**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

"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." (Mic 7:18-19)

The Lord's my Shepherd

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Psalm 89: 19-37

Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:

“I have granted help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.

I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’

And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.

I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens. If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my rules, if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness.

I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips.

Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David.

His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies.”

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: Isa 35, "The Ransomed Shall Return" (pg. 595)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Second Reading: Heb 12.1-17 (pg. 1008)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Living by Faith - Make Straight Paths (Mark Payne)

We Respond to God's Word

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.

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

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.

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.

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." (Prov. 3:9)*

Doxology and Benediction

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the Name of Christ,

Amen.