



The New Jerusalem: A Refuge from Leviathan

“Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.” (Rev 21:25)

Call 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.

(Isa 12:2)

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

(Isa 12:5)

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 63 (O Lord My God Most Earnestly)

O LORD, my God, most earnestly
I seek your holy face,
within your house again to see
the glories of your grace.

Apart from you I long and thirst,
and naught can satisfy;
I wander in a desert land
where all the streams are dry.

The loving-kindness of my God
is more than life to me,
so I will praise you all my days
and pray continually.

In you my soul is satisfied,
my darkness turns to light,
and joyful meditations fill
the watches of the night.

Beneath the shadow of your wings
I sing my joy and praise.
Your right hand is my strong support
through troubled nights and days.

All those who seek my life will fall;
my life is in your hand.
God's king and people will rejoice;
in victory they will stand.

George C. Stebbins (1878)

Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

“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.**

God's word tells us:

*“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.”* (1 Jn 1:8-9)

Let us therefore 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 judgement.
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.
O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise.
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)

Eternal Weight of Glory

Now the days and hours and moments
of our suff'ring 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 Saviour's vict'ry song*

We will see our wounded Saviour,
we'll behold him face to face;
And we'll hear our anguished stories
sung as vict'ry songs of grace.

Chorus

*Ref: 2 Cor 4:16-18; 1 Cor 15:54-55
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God's Word

Isaiah 27:1-13, "The Redemption of Israel"

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Psalm 46, "God is our Fortress!"

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:9-27

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The New Jerusalem: A Refuge from Leviathan (Stuart Hull)

Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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!**

See, What a Morning

See what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes,
tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan,
wrought in love, borne in pain,
paid in sacrifice.
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping: 'Where is He laid?
As in sorrow she turns
from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name:
It's the Master,
the Lord raised to life again!

The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope,
bringing peace to us,
will sound till He appears.
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit
who clothes faith with certainty.
Honour and blessing, glory and praise
to the King
crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won,
Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with Him,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty
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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.**

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 and we will all drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, we offer you eternal praise and thanks that you have so blessed us poor sinners, that we would be drawn into the Communion of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, whom you have delivered to death for us, and whom you have given us as the food and drink of life eternal. We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, and to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His 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)

