

Call to Worship

Read Psalm 124

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—
let Israel now say—
if it had not been the LORD who was on our side
when people rose up against us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth!
We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped!

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Prayer of Adoration

All glorious God, we give you thanks: in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You chose us, before the world was made, to be your holy people, without fault in your sight. You adopted us as your children in Christ. You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins. You have made known to us your secret purpose, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance. All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love.

[based on Ephesians 1:3-18]

Ordinary Time Call and Response

Leader

O magnify the Lord with me!

Congregation

Let us exalt his name together!

[from Psalm 34:3]

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Verse 1

A mighty fortress is our God
A bulwark never failing
Our helper, he amidst the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe
His craft and power are great
And armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal

Verse 2

Did we in our own strength confide
Our striving would be losing
Were not the right man on our side
The man of God's own choosing
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he
The Lord of hosts his name
From age to age the same
And he must win the battle

Verse 3

And though this world with devils filled
Should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God has willed
His truth to triumph through us
The prince of darkness grim
We tremble not for him
His rage we can endure
For, lo, his doom is sure
One little word shall fell him

Chorus

A mighty fortress, a rock unfailing
The King of glory forever, amen
For endless ages enthroned in praises
The King of glory forever, amen

Verse 4

That word above all earthly powers
No thanks to them abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours

Through him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go
This mortal life also
The body they may kill
God's truth abideth still
His kingdom is forever

Chorus (x2)

Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Exhortation

Ephesians 6:10–20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Confession

In prayer, confess your sin aloud together and personally in silence.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader

We have confessed our sins. Now, hear the good news! When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, to all who humbly seek the mercy of God, your Heavenly Father declares, in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

Together

Thanks be to God!

"How Firm a Foundation"

Verse 1

How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word
What more can he say than to you he hath said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Verse 2

When through the deep waters I cause thee to go
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow
For I will be with thee, thy trouble to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

Verse 3

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
The dross to consume and thy gold to refine

Verse 4

The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never, no never, no never forsake

Tag

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never, no never, no never forsake

Consecration

Prayers of Praise and Petition

Spend time in prayer together.

- Praise God for his sovereignty and meticulous control over all things.
- Praise God for Jesus's power over death and sin, and the new and everlasting life we have received as his people.
- Praise God for the commissioning of Westview Church, the newest daughter church of Cities Church, who officially covenanted together as a church on July 8th.
- Ask God to heal our city of all injustice and prejudice, and to end the destruction of life in all forms.
- Ask God to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Pray that he would grant wisdom to those responsible for making decisions about how to protect human life, especially the most vulnerable among us.

- Ask God, by his Holy Spirit, to give us insight on how we can best love our neighbors and seek the good of our communities.
- Pray for our church and other local churches throughout the city and the world.
- Pray for our missionaries:
 - Samuel and Sarah Chestnutt who are serving in Ireland
 - Steve and Lindsey Discher who are ministering to students in the Philippines
 - Matthew & Kailie who are ministering to those in the Middle East
 - Dieudonné & Dominique Tamfu who are church planting and founding a seminary in Cameroon
 - Ryan & Kassie Cossette and their ministry in Costa Rica
 - Sam Griffin and his ministry with Training Leaders International
 - The Andres and their ministry to the local Somali community
 - The Harmony Community Group and their outreach to the local Chinese community
 - Together for Good and their ministry to protect children from abuse and dangerous situations
 - John McCauley & Joelle Parfrey and their on-campus ministry “Students for Life”
 - Caitlin Boon & Rachel Beise and their ministries with Athletes in Action
 - Ellie Felber and her ministry to local youth with Timberbay

Teaching Text

Read Psalm 35

Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;
 fight against those who fight against me!
 Take hold of shield and buckler
 and rise for my help!
 Draw the spear and javelin
 against my pursuers!
 Say to my soul,
 “I am your salvation!”

Let them be put to shame and dishonor
 who seek after my life!
 Let them be turned back and disappointed
 who devise evil against me!
 Let them be like chaff before the wind,
 with the angel of the LORD driving them away!
 Let their way be dark and slippery,
 with the angel of the LORD pursuing them!

For without cause they hid their net for me;
 without cause they dug a pit for my life.
 Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it!

And let the net that he hid ensnare him;
let him fall into it—to his destruction!

Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD,
exulting in his salvation.
All my bones shall say,
“O LORD, who is like you,
delivering the poor
from him who is too strong for him,
the poor and needy from him who robs him?”

Malicious witnesses rise up;
they ask me of things that I do not know.
They repay me evil for good;
my soul is bereft.
But I, when they were sick—
I wore sackcloth;
I afflicted myself with fasting;
I prayed with head bowed on my chest.
I went about as though I grieved for my friend or my brother;
as one who laments his mother,
I bowed down in mourning.

But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered;
they gathered together against me;
wretches whom I did not know
tore at me without ceasing;
like profane mockers at a feast,
they gnash at me with their teeth.

How long, O Lord, will you look on?
Rescue me from their destruction,
my precious life from the lions!
I will thank you in the great congregation;
in the mighty throng I will praise you.

Let not those rejoice over me
who are wrongfully my foes,
and let not those wink the eye
who hate me without cause.
For they do not speak peace,
but against those who are quiet in the land
they devise words of deceit.

They open wide their mouths against me;
they say, "Aha, Aha!
Our eyes have seen it!"
You have seen, O LORD; be not silent!
O Lord, be not far from me!
Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication,
for my cause, my God and my Lord!
Vindicate me, O LORD, my God,
according to your righteousness,
and let them not rejoice over me!
Let them not say in their hearts,
"Aha, our heart's desire!"
Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up."

Let them be put to shame and disappointed altogether
who rejoice at my calamity!
Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor
who magnify themselves against me!

Let those who delight in my righteousness
shout for joy and be glad
and say evermore,
"Great is the LORD,
who delights in the welfare of his servant!"
Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness
and of your praise all the day long.

Teaching

Psalm 35

Communion

[If not partaking in the Lord's Table, reflect and pray in response to Pastor Jonathan's exposition of Psalm 35.]

"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"

Verse 1

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity

In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Verse 2

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In his living, in his suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law, in him we stand.

Verse 3

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Verse 4

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain him
Praise the Lord, he is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As will we be when he comes

Tag

What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As will we be when he comes

Commission

“Doxology”

Refrain

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
Amen

Commissioning

Remember the mission that Jesus has given us, his church:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18–20).

Go in peace.