

An Order of Worship for the Home

Prepared for March 22, 2020

This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak to one another and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can schedule a time to worship with you by phone.

There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. During this time as we "shelter in place" please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary.

Welcome and Invocation

Reader 1: This is the day the Lord has made.

Reader 2: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Reader 1: It is good to worship our God

Reader 2: The God who is Father, Son and Spirit

Together: Amen

Psalm 46

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

²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Selah

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Selah

⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Selah

Confession & Absolution

Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in the fellowship. Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered.

Christian Confessing: I am a sinner in need of God’s grace. My thoughts have been impure. My actions and words have caused harm. I’ve been slow to recognize my failings, and slow to seek forgiveness. But I’m here now. I am a sinner in need of God’s grace.

Christian Responding: You are a baptized child of God. You have been united with Christ in his death, and his resurrection. God has put to death sin in you, and he raises you to a new and perfect life in Christ. In this new life you have forgiveness and salvation as a beloved child of God. Go in peace.

Both: Amen

First Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary,

you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:4-7

“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God.⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Message from Pastor Matt

“Do Not Fear...Fear...Fear Not”

At the start of this week, I read Jesus’ words from Luke 12. In our current context of corona virus, social distancing, layoffs, school closures, and economic concerns his words brought both challenge and comfort which I needed. In the span of four verses, the word “fear” shows up 5 times. Jesus tells us what not to fear, what we should fear, and how that leads to living without fear.



“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. (Luke 12:4)

Wow – in the midst of all the talk about Covid-19, this cuts right through. What fears am I holding onto? I’ve talked with lots of people who are fearful of different things right now. There’s fear of the corona virus and fear of death. There’s fear of job losses and economic hardship. There’s fear of isolation. There’s a fear of overreaction, and fear of under-reacting. There’s fear of other people. So many things to fear. So many voices telling us what to fear.

Jesus looks at all of these fears and basically says, “All of these are temporary. All of these fears need to be secondary concerns for you. You’re listening to the wrong voices. Your fear is misplaced.” Then he continues...

But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! (Luke 12:5)

As a kid I remember assuming this verse had something to do with the devil. Afterall, the devil and hell kinda go together. If you think that way too, look at the verse again and realize that the devil has no authority to send anyone to hell.

One way to understand hell is that it's a sort of prison. (Matthew 25:41) It was built to hold Satan. He is the prisoner, not the judge. We have to keep that clear. Then we start to see what Jesus is really saying.

God is the one with authority to send Satan to hell. God is the judge. The judge is the one to be feared and respected. In the words above, Jesus is telling us to fear God.

Now, let me pause here so that we understand this fear correctly. I was blessed to grow up in a home with 2 great, loving parents. I love my mom and dad and I always have. But, there were times while growing up that I was afraid of my parents. I was afraid of them when I had done something wrong. They had authority, and they could impose a consequence for my misbehavior.

In a similar way, Jesus tells us we should be afraid of God. We are guilty, and he has authority to judge our guilt. He is perfect in all things. I am far from perfect. I do harm to myself. I do harm to others. I do harm to his creation. Because of my guilt, I fear God. I fear the voice of the judge and what he will say about my misdeeds. All the other things we're concerned about are secondary. They're all temporary. Once we see that, we're ready to hear what Jesus says next.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Luke 12:6-7)

Jesus finishes this teaching on fear with the comforting words, "Fear not."

Do not fear the troubles of this life. Fear the consequences of your sin as you stand before God. And fear not, because you stand before the God who loves you.

If we have our fears right, we'll know which voices we can listen to. We can listen for the voice of ultimate authority. We can listen for the one who says, "Fear not." That voice puts everything else into perspective.

Offering Prayer

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.

Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.

Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.

Reader 2: Receive our offerings

Together: Receive us as your own.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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;
and 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

Blessing

Reader 1: Lord, bless us and keep us.

Reader 2: Lord, make your face shine on us and be gracious to us.

Reader 1: Lord, look upon us with favor

Reader 2: And, give us peace.

Together: Amen

As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version will be available at www.calvaryslz.org. We can also add others to our mailing list if that is preferred.

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