

# An Order of Worship for the Home

The Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 17, 2020

Teaching through 1 Peter during the Easter season. (week 5, chapter 5)

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*This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak 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 worship with you by phone.*

*There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we shelter in place, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org) to give online.*

## **Invocation**

Reader 1: He is risen!  
Reader 2: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Reader 1: All thanks and praise to God...  
Reader 2: Father, Son and Spirit...  
Together: Amen.

Reader 2: He is risen!  
Reader 1: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## **Psalm 66:8-20**

Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
<sup>9</sup> who has kept our soul among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.  
<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
<sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net;  
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;  
<sup>12</sup> you let men ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

<sup>13</sup> I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will perform my vows to you,  
<sup>14</sup> that which my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
<sup>15</sup> I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,



no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.<sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

### **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.

### **1 Peter 5:6-11** (message text)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### **Message from Pastor Matt** **Advice About Rocks**

About 20 years ago I went on a pack trip through the Yosemite backcountry with a couple friends. Unknown to me, during a stop while my pack was off, my friend Ron loaded some rocks in my pack. I'm pretty sure he was in better shape than me anyway, but on the next stretch of trail he was far in front while I was struggling on a gradual uphill. Eventually, he must have felt bad because he told me to stop and he proceeded to pull fist size rocks out of my backpack.

From that experience, I want to share two bits of backpacking advice:

- 1) Don't take a trip with Ron.
- 2) Avoid carrying extra weight, because it only makes things more difficult.

That second nugget matches something the Apostle Peter wrote in the letter we've been studying.

*"...casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)*

Peter's call is like my backpacking advice. Avoid carrying the stuff you don't have to. I had some experience with rocks. I wonder if Peter had some experience with anxiety?

There was that time Peter walked on water. It went really well... until he got anxious about the wind and the waves.

There was that time Peter snuck into a courtyard trying to overhear something from Jesus' trial. He was doing well... until he got worried people were associating him with Jesus.

But after the resurrection things were different. There were a couple times Peter got arrested for preaching about Jesus. Once he got beat up and released. Another time he was locked up until an angel set him free. In those cases, the worry didn't seem to be driving his responses. Something changed. I think he brought this new perspective into the letter we've been reading.

You don't need to carry the worries. Instead, give them to your God.

At Peter's time, there was plenty to be worried about. Nero had recently come to power. Christianity was no longer a legal religion. Persecution had begun in Rome – where Peter is writing from – and it's beginning to spread. There are a growing number of arrests. People are being imprisoned. Families have been torn apart. Nothing feels safe.

We don't have the same set of worries, but there is still plenty to be anxious about in our time. Each worry is like an extra rock thrown into a pack you're carrying. What are the rocks you've been lugging around?

Job loss?

Foolish people? (Maybe the ones who can't wear a mask correctly at Safeway; or the rude ones; or the upset and vocal ones?)

Family tensions?

School stresses?

Health issues?  
Concern for your kids?  
Concern for your parents?

Every rock adds weight. Every worry pulls you down. They will tire you out. They will exhaust you. And when you and I have all these rocks on our backs, we tend to react in a couple ways.

Sometimes we simply give up. The weight is too much, so we just stop moving. We no longer expect anything of ourselves. We can be defeated by worry. We can stop trying. We can stop looking for something better.

Sometimes we get angry. We start throwing rocks. Our worries become ammunition, and we start firing at anything and anyone hoping it'll make a difference. Unfortunately, while it feels like we're emptying our pack of rocks, this strategy only means more rocks get piled on our backs.

Peter invites us to take a different approach... Hand over your rocks.

It's ironic – the advice he gives – because it makes sense, yet it flies in the face of our natural desire. We would like to either give up or start throwing rocks at others. While these seem opposite, they actually share a common false assumption. Both of these responses assume it's up to me to deal with the rocks. Peter says it's not.

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God... (1 Peter 5:6a)*

It's not up to you, so stop acting like it is. If the rocks you carry are crushing you under their weight, allow your God to deal with them. That's what he wants to do for you!

A better translation of this verse would actually be something like "Accept the humbling you've received..." If the worry and anxiety and "rocks" of this world seem too big for you, accept the fact that *they are too big*. Accept the humble position you're in. Accept the fact that you need someone bigger and stronger and more reliable than yourself. Allow your God to carry these things.

Allow Jesus to carry your rocks. He can handle it. He carried his cross until he could stand no more. He carried your sin until he breathed no more. In his new life, he offers to carry your anxieties until they are no more.

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you... (1 Peter 5:6)*

At the right time... at the time of his return... at the time you see him as he truly is... at the time you see yourself as you truly are... he will exalt you. Accept that you are an insufficient answer for the worries of this world, and allow Jesus to be the all-sufficient answer. When you take that humble position, he promises you will rise above every rock, every worry, and every burden you've ever faced.

This is your confidence. This is the hope which carries you. You don't have to be bigger than your worries to get over them. You have a God who is bigger. He will raise you up. At the proper time he will exalt you. Amen.

### **Offering Prayer**

*If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the 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 the Lord's Prayer together.*

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** (2 Corinthians 12:14)

Reader 1: He is risen!

Reader 2: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Reader 1: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Reader 2: ...and the love of God

Reader 1: ...and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

Reader 2: ...and with you

Together: Amen

Reader 2: He is risen!

Reader 1: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version is available at [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org). We can also add friends to our mailing list if that is preferred.*

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