

## *Come Worship the Just Judge of All*

### **Call to Worship**

**1 Samuel 2:6-10**

The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.

**He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.**

He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven.

**The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.**

### **O Worship the King**

O worship the King, all glorious above;  
O gratefully sing his power and his love  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form  
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light  
It streams from the hills it descends to the plains  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail  
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail  
Your mercies how tender how firm to the end  
Our maker, defender, redeemer and friend

O measureless Might, Ineffable Love!  
While angels delight to hymn you above.  
The humbler creation though feeble their lays  
With true adoration shall lisp to your praise

### **Prayer of Invocation**

*We ask God's presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.*

## *Our Injustice is Revealed in the Light of His Justice*

### **Call to Confession**

**John 3:17-20**

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Heavenly Father,

You are the just judge of all the world, but we are not just in our thoughts, words, and actions. We treat people we like better than we treat people we don't like. We think highly of people who look and act more like we do, or like we wish we did. Other times we are resentful of people who seem to have their lives together in ways that we don't, and we envy them. We are disrespectful to our parents and to others who deserve our respect. We are too harsh with our friends, spouses, and children, exerting our wrath on them in ways disproportionate to their offenses against us. Others of us are afraid to discipline our children or to seek justice through gentle, gospel-driven confrontation with those who have sinned against us. Father, forgive us for not loving justice like you do.

Jesus, thank you for living a perfectly just life on our behalf. Thank you for always speaking the truth, for always shedding light, and for promoting justice everywhere you went. Thank you especially for satisfying the justice of your Heavenly Father by bearing his righteous wrath for our sins on the cross. Thank you for undergoing the judgment of God for us, though you were sinless, so that we might be justified before God.

Holy Spirit, help us to repent of the ways that we are prone to pervert justice. Help us neither to fear nor to love judgment too much. Remind us of our union with Christ which saves us entirely from God's judgment, because we have Jesus' perfect record of righteousness. Give us the grace more and more every day to walk in the light, to be just in our thoughts, words, and actions toward those around us. And may we also seek justice for those who are oppressed, as your Word reminds us. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

## Depth of Mercy

Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me?  
Can my God his wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners, spare?  
I have long withstood his grace, long provoked him to his face,  
Would not hearken to his calls, grieved him by a thousand falls.

I have spilt his precious blood, trampled on the Son of God,  
Filled with pangs unspeakable, I, who yet am not in hell!  
I my Master have denied, I afresh have crucified,  
And profaned his hallowed Name, put him to an open shame.

Whence to me this waste of love? Ask my Advocate above!  
See the cause in Jesus' face, now before the throne of grace.  
Pity from thine eye let fall, by a look my soul recall;  
Now the stone to flesh convert, cast a look, and break my heart.

## Assurance of Pardon

**John 5:24; 2 Timothy 4:8**

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

**Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.**

## Depth of Mercy (continued)

If I rightly read thy heart, if thou all compassion art,  
Bow thine ear, in mercy bow, pardon and accept me now.  
Jesus speaks, and pleads his blood! He disarms the wrath of God;  
Now my Father's mercies move, justice lingers into love.

Kindled his relentings are, me he now delights to spare,  
Cries, "How shall I give thee up?" Lets the lifted thunder drop.  
Lo! I still walk on the ground: Lo! an Advocate is found:  
"Hasten not to cut him down, Let this barren soul alone."

Jesus, answer from above, is not all thy nature love?  
Wilt thou not the wrong forget, permit me to kiss thy feet.  
There for me the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands.  
Scars which ever plead for me, "Once condemned, but now set free!"

## Pastoral Prayer

*Children may be excused to Nursery.*

## Hear the Truth of God's Judgment

### Scripture Reading

**Zephaniah 1:1 - 2:3**

The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

<sup>2</sup> "I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. <sup>3</sup> "I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. <sup>4</sup> "I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests along with the priests, <sup>5</sup> those who bow down on the roofs to the host of the heavens, those who bow down and swear to the LORD and yet swear by Milcom, <sup>6</sup> those who have turned back from following the LORD, who do not seek the LORD or inquire of him."

<sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. <sup>8</sup> And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. <sup>9</sup> On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud."

<sup>10</sup> "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. <sup>11</sup> Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. <sup>12</sup> At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' <sup>13</sup> Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

<sup>14</sup> The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. <sup>15</sup> A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup> I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. <sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the LORD. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

<sup>2:1</sup> Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation, <sup>2</sup> before the decree takes effect -- before the day passes away like chaff-- before there comes upon you the burning anger of the LORD, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.

## Sermon

**“The End Is Nigh!”**  
**Dr. Iain Duguid**

*We will receive our gifts and offerings for the Lord's work during this song.*

### **Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness**

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress;  
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in thy great day; for who aught to my charge shall lay?  
Fully absolved through these I am, from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,  
Ev'n then this shall be all my plea, Jesus hath lived, hath died, for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me—  
For me a full atonement made, an everlasting ransom paid.

O let the dead now hear thy voice; now bid thy banished ones rejoice;  
Their beauty this, their glorious dress, Jesus, thy blood and righteousness.

## ***Christ Takes Our Judgment on Himself***

### **The Lord's Supper**

*All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The cups with lighter liquid contain grape juice, the darker liquid is wine. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.*

### **Who is This?**

Who is this, so weak and helpless, Child of lowly Hebrew maid,  
Rudely in a stable sheltered, coldly in a manger laid?  
'Tis the Lord of all creation, who this wondrous path has trod;  
He is God from everlasting, and to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows, walking humbly life's hard way,  
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping over sin and Satan's sway?  
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior, who above the starry sky  
Is for us a place preparing, where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding drops of blood upon the ground!  
Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?  
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces on his church is pouring down;  
Who shall smite in holy vengeance all his foes beneath his throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying while the rude world scoffs and scorns,  
Numbered with the malefactors, torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?  
'Tis our God who lives forever 'mid the shining ones on high,  
In the glorious golden city, reigning everlastingly.

### **My Hope is Built On Nothing Less**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When Darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!  
*Refrain*

## **Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder**

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name!  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;  
He has washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,  
Called us by his grace and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:  
He has washed us with his blood, he presents our souls to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptation threatens hard to bear us down!  
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqueror's crown;  
He, who washed us with his blood, soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice join and point to mercy's store;  
When through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:  
He who washed us with his blood, has secured our way to God.

Let us praise and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;  
Here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:  
You have washed us with your blood, you are worthy Lamb of God!

## **Benediction**

## **Morning Worship**

**Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

The justice of God that required man's damnation, and seemed inconsistent with his salvation, now as much requires the salvation of those that believe in Christ, as ever before it required their damnation. Salvation is an absolute debt to the believer from God, so that he may in justice demand it, on account of what his surety has done. For Christ has satisfied justice fully for his sin... It is but a piece of justice that the creditor should release the debtor, when he has fully paid the debt. And again, the believer may demand eternal life, because it has been merited by Christ... That justice that seemed to require man's destruction, now requires his salvation.

— Jonathan Edwards

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