

Call to Worship – Hebrews 8:2

In Old Testament worship, God gave the exact instructions for what to do, and man set up the tabernacle; however, in our worship this morning, not only has God given us instructions for worship, but He Himself has set up our 'tabernacle'—Jesus Christ Himself, through whom we enter not just a holy place on earth, but the great Holy of Holies in highest heaven!

^{STANDING} *Song – #181, We Come, O Christ, to You*

^{STANDING} *Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him*

Serial Reading – Mark 14:1-25

There is an interesting contrast between four views of the Passover here. For the priests and scribes, the Passover is an inconvenience that gets in the way of murdering Jesus, both of which are irrelevant concerns by comparison to their status. For Judas, the Passover and Jesus Himself are irrelevant concerns by comparison to the money bag. For the disciples, the Passover is a very important religious ceremony for which they must prepare. For Jesus, the Passover is a foreshadowing that He is about to replace in giving His body and blood, but even the Lord's Supper is a meal that looks forward to its own being replaced and obsolete by the kingdom's coming in glory. What a Passover meal is our Christ! His body the truest nourishment and strength; His blood the truest safety and gladness.

^{STANDING} *Song – #420, At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

Weekly Prayer of the Congregation

Preaching – Genesis 26:24d

Promises, Promises

^{STANDING} *Song – #172, Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder*

^{STANDING} *Pronouncement of God's Blessing upon His People*

^{STANDING} *Parting Song, #42, El Shaddai*

After the announcements, the elders of the church gather to ask God, on behalf of the congregation, for His help for the service and His blessing upon it. During this time, it would be appropriate for you to do the same for yourself and your children, teaching them to do the same. The hope of this guide is that (among other things) it will help you think and pray through the service as we prepare together.

Call to Worship—The entire book of Hebrews was originally a sermon about the gathered worship services of Christian congregations; and, the Holy Spirit included it in Scripture as a letter. So every phrase of this book has a direct application to what we do in our gathered Lord's Day services. Last year, we began by taking a series of selections through the book as the Scriptures that called us together to mark the start of the service. Then, we returned to the beginning of the book to take it phrase by phrase. In the current section, God is telling us about how Jesus' priesthood connects our worship services to glory.

Songs, We Come, O Christ, to You—This song connects last week's sermon to this week's call to worship. Indeed, through Christ we enter into the worship in heaven itself, but how can *we sinners* do so without continual terror of being incinerated?! Because Christ's death and resurrection have taken the terror out of the one truly great fear that we ever face!

Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him—we ask God to accept our worship through Jesus, even as He has promised. And with hearts inflamed with grateful love, we ask that God—also for Jesus' sake—will help us offer worship that is according to God's instructions and therefore fitting and excellent and beautiful in the sight of God.

Bible Reading, Mark 14:1-25—although the entire Bible teaches the good news that GOD SAVES SINNERS, we are always reading in those books that specifically focus on what Jesus did and taught (including Acts and Revelation, which describe Christ's completion of His work in the history of the church) for our salvation. Where we left off last week, Jesus had just finished warning in two different ways about two separate events: the fall of Jerusalem and His own second coming; this week, we see Jesus' view of His last Passover in contrast to several other views..

Song, At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing—In this song, we sing our joy and safety in Christ as the fulfillment of the Passover, looking forward even more to the day He drinks with us anew in the glory of the kingdom!

Weekly Prayer of the Congregation—just as God especially sets apart His Word and sacraments to be used for His work in us, so also He sets apart congregational prayer. In this prayer, especially, we bring to our heavenly Father our congregation's weekly concerns.

Preaching, Genesis 26:24c—we continue to see God's grace at work in the life of Isaac, and to think about how God's grace is at work in our lives because of Jesus, the offspring whom Isaac was promised.

Song, Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder—Jesus holds before us His marvelous promises to sustain us through this life; for, He has done everything to secure those promises. They *completely* belong to *everyone* who is in Christ!.

Pronouncement of God's Blessing—God sends us out of His called worship gatherings with a final, condensed announcement of His favor upon His people

Call to Worship – Psalm 148:11-13

Last week, vv7-10 called upon all the seas and earth and sky to praise Yahweh; this week, vv11-13 call for every single human being—male and female, young and old, prince and pauper—to praise the Lord!

^{STANDING} *Song – #110, Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah*

^{STANDING} *Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him*

Serial Reading – Jeremiah 24

What is so bad about the figs in the vision? What Yahweh plans to do to them. For the majority of humanity, the message of Jeremiah is, "For I know the plans I have for you, says Yahweh: plans to make you a horror, a reproach, a byword, a taunt, and a curse." We ALL are rotten to the core and fully deserve this, but our rottenness is not the 'badness' of the figs here. What's amazing, then, is that there are good figs at all—and how good they are. Again, the 'goodness' is a reference to how well God plans to treat them, not their character. In fact, we know they start out wicked, because part of the "good fig" treatment from God is that He will transform the heart. So, how does a person turn out "character-wise" to be a good fig? Because although he was rotten, God gave him the good-fig treatment anyway, by giving him Jesus and then conforming him to Jesus.

^{STANDING} *Song – #80, Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee*

Lord's Day Evening Prayer

Preaching – Romans 11:1-6

Divine Reservations

^{STANDING} *Song – #469, How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place*

^{STANDING} *Pronouncement of God's Blessing upon His People*

^{STANDING} *Parting Song, #274, Thine Be the Glory*

Please stay to fellowship and celebrate the Lord's Day with us at the afterparty!

What a blessing that as we who have the Spirit groan towards glory, our merciful Father has sprinkled throughout our straining forward: not Lord's hours, nor Lord's mornings, but entire and rich and joyful Lord's Days. So let us conclude the day together in worship!

Call to Worship—how are Christians to think and feel in various situations? God has given us an entire book of the Bible to show what it looks like for us sinners—by grace—to think and feel with the mind and heart of Christ. It is a book of songs, largely sung prayers, that provides the molds of grace within which our emotions can be shaped by the heart and mind of Jesus. What a wonderful gift! And so currently, we have our evening calls to worship from this songbook, especially using those texts in which there are commands for God's people to gather for worship.

Song, Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah—the first line of our Psalm is "Praise Yahweh!" 'Hallelujah' is a contraction of the Hebrew phrase that commands just that. Specifically, we sing the verses that called us to worship in the section from "From the earth O praise..." to "birds that in the heavens fly."

Prayer for God's Help to Worship Him—confidently because of Christ, we ask God to accept our worship. And with hearts inflamed with grateful love, we ask that God—also for Jesus' sake—will help us offer worship that is according to the Bible and therefore fitting, excellent, and beautiful as defined by God.

Bible Reading, Jeremiah 24—with the exception of a few comfortable passages, the major prophets may be the least read and understood part of the Bible. But they are rich in the greatness of God's grace. They hold before us the greatness of our sin and danger, so that we will know the greatness of God's grace and mercy! Jeremiah in particular tells us about how we bring our own destruction upon our heads by listening to words that we like, instead of God's true words; by worship of other gods; and, by idolatrous worship of the true God. But he also tells us about a God of grace who insists on saving a people for Himself, which means that He intends to save a people that He actually *makes* righteous *from the inside out*.

Song, Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee—This song combines both themes: the intense goodness of what God does for sinners, and how it is God Himself who produces by grace any good that is in them.

Lord's Day Evening Prayer—as we come to close the Lord's Day, we thank God together for the blessings of the day, and take one last opportunity to adore Him with united hearts in prayer, before asking Him for this blessing and adoration to penetrate and saturate our weeks, until we come together again—either for another Lord's Day and its gatherings, or for the Great Day of the Lord, and the gathering of the entire number of all the elect for our eternal Sabbath rest.

Preaching, Romans 11:1-5—God hasn't rejected Israel; if He did that, they'd *all* be gone. If you pay careful attention to what God is doing, you'd see that He is actively *keeping for Himself* Israelites. Indeed, this is the only way that any Israelite—or Gentile!—is saved... no one is saved just because he is an Israelite, which would be a sort of work.

Songs, How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place—Let us sing of the marvelous goodness of God, Who puts His love on universal display with Christ on the cross and the free offer of the Gospel. And He puts His love on sovereign, unearnable display in giving resting faith to previously rebellious believers. And we imitate His heart.

Pronouncement of God's Blessing—God sends us out of His called worship gatherings with a final, condensed announcement of His favor upon His people