



# LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

August 24, 2025



*Welcome one another  
as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.*

Romans 15:7

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## THIS SUNDAY

- **POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP**: Everyone is invited to join us after the service downstairs in the fellowship hall.
- **EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE**: This Sunday at **5:30PM**. See service details on page 13 (or the church calendar on our app or website).

## NEXT WEEK

- **BIBLE STUDY**: We continue our study of Paul's letter to the Romans next **Tuesday** (Aug 26) at **7:00PM**. Everyone is invited to participate, either in person (meeting downstairs) or online via Zoom (see the weekly Tuesday email for the Zoom link).

## COMING UP

- **DEACON OFFERING**: Please remember to support Hope's diaconal ministries with your monthly offering on Sunday, **September 7**.
- **PICNIC IN THE PARK**: Our last summer picnic of the year will be on Sunday, **September 7** after the worship service in the park across the street. Hope provides all the food.

# MORNING WORSHIP



## SILENT PRAYER & INVOCATION

## GREETING

**PEOPLE: Amen!**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*from [Psalm 103:1-5](#)*

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*[“Gloria Patri”](#)*

#734

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

*[“How Good It Is to Thank the Lord”](#) (Ps. 92)*

#635

**How good it is to thank the Lord,  
and praise to you, Most High, accord,  
to show your love with morning light,  
and tell your faithfulness each night;  
yea, good it is your praise to sing,  
and all our sweetest music bring.**

**O Lord, with joy my heart expands  
before the wonders of your hands;  
great works, Jehovah, you have wrought,  
exceeding deep your ev’ry thought;  
a foolish man knows not their worth,  
nor he whose mind is of the earth.**

**When as the grass the wicked grow,  
when sinners flourish here below,  
then is there endless ruin nigh,  
but you, O Lord, are throned on high;  
your foes shall fall before your might,  
the wicked shall be put to flight.**

**The righteous man shall flourish well,  
and in the house of God shall dwell;  
he shall be like a goodly tree,  
and all his life shall fruitful be;  
for righteous is the Lord and just,  
he is my rock, in him I trust.**

From Psalm 92. Words from *The Psalter* (1912; mod.).

Music by Dmitri Bortniansky (1825).

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## SUMMONS TO REPENTANCE

[2 Timothy 3:1-7](#)

## CONFESSING OUR SIN

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

**IN THESE MOMENTS, WE SILENTLY CONFESS OUR PERSONAL SINS  
TO GOD SO THAT WE MAY TAKE HOLD OF THE FORGIVENESS  
WON FOR US BY CHRIST, OUR REDEEMER.**

# ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[Romans 5:1](#)

## SINGING GOD'S GRACE

["The Love of God"](#)

*Songbook*

**The love of God is greater far  
than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
it goes beyond the highest star,  
and reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,  
God gave His Son to win.  
His erring child He reconciled  
and pardoned from his sin.**

***O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure —  
the saints' and angels' song.***

**When ancient time shall pass away,  
and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;  
when those who here refuse to pray  
on rocks and hills and mountains call;  
God's love so sure, shall still endure,  
all measureless and strong;  
redeeming grace to Adam's race —  
the saints' and angels' song.**

***O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure —  
the saints' and angels' song.***

**Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
and were the skies of parchment made;  
were every stalk on earth a quill,  
and every man a scribe by trade;**

**to write the love of God above  
would drain the ocean dry;  
nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
though stretched from sky to sky.**

***O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure —  
the saints' and angels' song.***

Words by Fredrik M. Lehman (1917).

Verse 3 adapted from Rabbi Meir "*Haddamut*" (ca. 1050).

Music by Fredrik M. Lehman (1917); arranged by Claudia Lehman Mays (alt.)

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## WE CONFESS OUR FAITH

### *Westminster Confession of Faith I.4 – Of the Holy Scripture*

**The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man, or church, but wholly upon God (who is truth itself), the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.**

## PRAYER

[Iran \(prayercast.com\)](http://Iran.prayercast.com): Known as Persia until 1935, today's Islamic Republic of Iran is predominantly Muslim (99%), mostly Shi'ite. It is often perceived as Arabic with neighboring Arabic countries, but Iran is Persian. Descendants of Noah's son Shem first settled in the area and were followed by the Medes and Persians, who established a world empire. The Bible records the names of some of its most famous: Cyrus the Great, Darius, and Xerxes. Over the centuries, the Persian language (Farsi) and culture have prevailed even with many conquerors crossing through this land. Persians comprise over 60% of the 90 million people in Iran. With northern coastlines on the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf

and Gulf of Oman in the south, Iran's large land mass is politically strategic as it shares borders with Iraq, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Geographically, in the Middle East and Central Asia, Iran is a recognized regional power. The 1979 Islamic Revolution overthrew the twenty-five-hundred-year-old monarchy and converted Iran into a Shi'ite Muslim, cleric-ruled country. Currently, Iran's over-dependence on the country's oil and natural gas exports, economic reforms that fell short of their targets, triple-digit inflation, and a 30% poverty rate, have crippled the nation. Furthermore, Iran's questionable nuclear program, along with its attitude toward Israel, has stirred up worldwide political concerns and economic sanctions.

In Iran, all ethnic Persians and those from Muslim backgrounds (even if not practicing) are considered Muslims. Anyone who converts to Christianity is declared an apostate and could face death. The Iranian constitution recognizes the historic minority religions of Zoroastrianism, Judaism, and Christianity, but it does not allow churches to preach or distribute materials in Farsi, and proselytizing is forbidden. Yet, the number of Muslim background believers coming to Christ in Iran continues to grow greatly regardless. Believers and non-believers are having Holy Spirit-inspired dreams and visions. Many are curious about the Bible, but Bibles and Christian printed materials in Farsi are illegal. Smuggled Farsi Bibles and materials are quickly put to use. The Internet and broadcasts by radio and satellite TV are providing encouragement, resources, and training for believers as more come to Christ and more underground house churches are established.

- Pray for youth to find hope in Christ amid growing political and economic disillusionment.
- Pray for the Lord's love to transform the hearts of mullahs and government leaders.
- Pray for effective outreach by international Iranians towards those living in country.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MINISTER'S PRAYER,  
THE CONGREGATION SHALL PRAY 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## SERMON TEXT

*Deuteronomy 23:15-25; 24:5-22*

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. <sup>16</sup> He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him. You shall not wrong him.

<sup>17</sup> None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, and none of the sons of Israel shall be a cult prostitute.

<sup>18</sup> You shall not bring the fee of a prostitute or the wages of a dog into the house of the LORD your God in payment for any vow, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

<sup>19</sup> You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest. <sup>20</sup> You may charge a foreigner interest, but you may not charge your brother interest, that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

<sup>21</sup> If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. <sup>22</sup> But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin. <sup>23</sup> You shall



be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

<sup>24</sup> If you go into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish, but you shall not put any in your bag. <sup>25</sup> If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.

<sup>5</sup> When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.

<sup>6</sup> No one shall take a mill or an upper millstone in pledge, for that would be taking a life in pledge.

<sup>7</sup> If a man is found stealing one of his brothers of the people of Israel, and if he treats him as a slave or sells him, then that thief shall die. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

<sup>8</sup> Take care, in a case of leprous disease, to be very careful to do according to all that the Levitical priests shall direct you. As I commanded them, so you shall be careful to do.

<sup>9</sup> Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam on the way as you came out of Egypt.

<sup>10</sup> "When you make your neighbor a loan of any sort, you shall not go into his house to collect his pledge.

<sup>11</sup> You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you make the loan shall bring the pledge out to you. <sup>12</sup> And if he is a poor man, you shall not sleep in his pledge. <sup>13</sup> You shall restore to him the pledge as the sun sets, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you. And it shall be righteousness for you before the LORD your God.

<sup>14</sup> You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns.

<sup>15</sup> You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.

<sup>16</sup> Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.

<sup>17</sup> You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in pledge,

<sup>18</sup> but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

<sup>19</sup> When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. <sup>20</sup> When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. <sup>21</sup> When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.

<sup>22</sup> You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this."

**SERMON**     *"Justice and Mercy in the Assembly of the LORD"*

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art —  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father, I thy true son;  
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;  
raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish poem (ca. 8th cent.); translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905);  
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912).

Traditional Irish melody; arr. by David Evans (1927).

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# THE LORD'S SUPPER

PLEASE **HOLD** ELEMENTS UNTIL **ALL** ARE SERVED.

**WHITE GRAPE JUICE** IS IN THE TRAYS.

**GLUTEN-FREE BREAD** IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

MINISTER: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

## GRATEFUL OFFERINGS

*["Doxology"](#)*

#733

## BENEDICTION

*[2 Thessalonians 3:5, 18](#)*

*["Threefold Amen"](#)*

#740



# EVENING WORSHIP



OPENING PRAYER

RESPONSIVE READING

*Psalm 147*  
(TH page 839–840)

HYMN

*[“By Grace I Am and Heir of Heaven”](#)*

*TH #695*

OT SCRIPTURE READING

*[Leviticus 21](#)*

NT SCRIPTURE READING

*[Acts 20](#)*

PRAYERS

SERMON

*[Acts 23:12–14](#)*  
*“Unlawful Vows”*  
(See WCF 22.7 — TH page 862)

SONGS BY REQUEST

CLOSING PRAYER



## CHURCH INFORMATION:



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"HopePCA" (password: Gloria734)

## LEADERSHIP:

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