

Proclaiming the Gospel

Scripture for Meditation: *Acts 20:24*

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

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Call to Worship Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure:
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

Words and music by Martin Luther, 1483-1546, alt. tune
Translation by Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890

Offertory Hymn of the Gospel: *O Praise the Name*

O Praise the Name

(Anastasis)

1. I cast my mind to Cal - va - ry, where Je - sus
2. His bod - y bound and drenched in tears, they laid Him
3. Then on the third at break of dawn, the Son of
4. He shall re - turn in robes of white; the blaz - ing

bled and died for me; I see His wounds, His hands, His
down in Jo - seph's tomb; the en - trance sealed by heav - y
Heav - en rose a - gain. O tramp - led death, where is your
sun shall pierce the night, and I will rise a - mong the

feet, my Sav - iour on that curs - ed tree.
stone, Mes - si - ah still and all a - lone.
sting? The an - gels roar for Christ the King!
saints, my gaze trans - fixed on Je - sus' face.

O praise the Name of the Lord our God; O
praise His Name fo - ev - er - more. For end - less days we will
sing your praise. O Lord, O Lord, our God.

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Prayer of Blessing

Responsive Reading: *I Corinthians 1:20-31*

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written,

“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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Hymn of Boasting: *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only son, to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turned his face away
As wounds which mar the chosen one bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend

Prayer of Corporate Confession

Silence for Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon: *Romans 1:16, 17*

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of Safety: *My Dwelling Place (Psalm 91)*

My Dwelling Place (Psalm 91)

1. My dwell - ing place is God Most High, my ref - uge and my
2. My dwell - ing place is God Most High, a pres - ent help in
3. My dwell - ing place is God Most High, I'll nev - er seek a -

5
for - tress. When plague and pes - ti - lence draw nigh, I'm hid - den in His
dan - er. I rest se - cure in love's pure light, be - neath my Mas - ter's
9
noth - er. For I am His and He is mine, my heart He'll keep for -

13
pres - ence. When ter - rors fall and ar - rows fly, His shield will be my
fa - vor. He freed me from the fowl - er's snare, where sin and shame had
ev - er. I know the name on whom I call, He prom - is - es to

17
safe - ty. When stones a - cross my path - way lie, on an - gels' wings I'm
bound - me. De - ceived, I'd made my ref - uge there, till fear - less He came
an - swer. With life he sat - is - fies my soul, and crowns me with His

21
car - ried. Won - der - ful, pow - er - ful, my hope and my De -
for - me.
pleas - ure.

fen - der. Might - y God, Em - man - u el, my dwell - ing place for - ev - er.

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Hymn of Triumph: *O Church, Arise**

O church, arise and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain;
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is "Love!"
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side,
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—
An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict'ry march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in ev'ry stride,
Give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

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*Children under first grade may leave during this song.

Ministry of the Word

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The gospel is boldly advancing under the contested reign and inevitable victory of Jesus the king. This side of Jesus' death and resurrection, all of God's sovereignty is mediated exclusively through King Jesus. . . . Christ "must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet" ([I Cor.] 15:25). That presupposes the reign is still contested, and still advances. This is of a piece with Jesus' claim, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt 16:18). But one day, the final enemy, death itself, will die, and Jesus' mediatorial kingship will end. God will be all in all.

D. A. Carson