

Guide for Home Worship May 2, 2021

Opening Prayer

(select someone from your group to open your service in prayer)

Call to Worship

1 Peter 2:9-12 (ESV)

LEADER: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession,

CONGREGATION: *That you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

LEADER: Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;

CONGREGATION: *Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

LEADER: Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

CONGREGATION: *Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

Songs and Liturgy

(sing as a group and/or sing along to recorded versions)

BE UNTO YOUR NAME

(Lynn DeShazo and Gary Sadler)

We are a moment, You are forever,
Lord of the Ages, God before time.
We are a vapor, You are eternal,
Love everlasting reigning on high.

CHORUS:

Holy, holy Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name

We are the broken, You are the healer,
Jesus Redeemer mighty to save.
You are the love song we'll sing forever,
Bowing before You blessing Your name. (CHORUS)

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RESPONSIVE READING – *Revelation 5:11-13 (NIV)*

LEADER: And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

CONGREGATION: *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!*

LEADER: And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them I heard saying,

CONGREGATION: *To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever!*

THERE IS A FOUNTAIN

(William Cowper, 1772)

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains:
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away:
Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power,
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved, to sin no more:
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die:
And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Prayer Time

(You may have an open time of prayer or select someone to pray)

- Pray for our nation – that the good news of Jesus Christ would draw people to know God genuinely and personally.
- Pray for those suffering from the ongoing spread of the coronavirus.
- Pray for those experiencing racial injustices; specifically, that God would bring hope, reconciliation, and restoration through the good news of His Son.
- Pray for those in authority at every level in our country, that they would govern wisely and justly.

Listen to Sermon

“He Must Increase”

preached by Pastor Ryan Bouton

John 3:22-36 (ESV)

²² After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” ²⁷ John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.”

³¹ *He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³ Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism (1563) Lord’s Day 1

LEADER What is your only comfort in life and in death?

CONGREGATION: That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

LEADER: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

CONGREGATION: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

Song of Response

HIS MERCY IS MORE

(Matt Papa, Matt Boswell)

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore.
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

CHORUS:

Praise the Lord,
His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

What riches of kindness he lavished on us.
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.

(CHORUS)

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Benediction

(The leader or individual should read this aloud relishing in the confident assertion that Christ has conquered.)

Luke 12:29-32

LEADER: Do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

PEOPLE: *Amen!*