

MAR 15

HABAKKUK

minor prophet // major lesson



REDEMPTION PEORIA | LITURGY FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 15, 2020

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GATHERING

As we gather for worship this Sunday, we realize that things look radically different this week. The early Christian movement can serve as a source of guidance and encouragement to us as we navigate these new circumstances. Just as early Christians gathered on Sundays in homes, so will we. We will gather to renew the covenant of grace with our Triune God and to rehearse the story of salvation. On these terms, a gathering of 5 is just as legitimate as a gathering of 500, though admittedly we will miss the strength of our visible unity and the ministry of our leaders present among us. We suggest that you gather with a group of no more than 20 individuals. Of course, if you have had known contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or if you are experiencing symptoms of any kind, we ask that you refrain from gathering with anyone outside your household.

In terms of how to proceed with this liturgy, feel free to assign parts depending on your circumstances. However, we would make the following suggestions:

- Select a leader who will read all the “LEADER” parts. Everyone else should read the “ALL” parts. For our usual Sunday feel, think of them as “Y’ALL” parts, even.
- Select three other people (assuming you have enough present) in the gathering to lead the three prayers included in this liturgy: the Prayer of Adoration, the Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession, and the Prayers of Illumination. There are prompts included with each of these prayers should they be helpful to you.
- For the hymns, we have included the hymn texts in the printed liturgy, as well as links to arrangements we typically sing when we gather, which are most familiar to most of us.
- We would ask you to sing the hymns we have included. We know that God’s people sing. Think of the multitude of saints who’ve gone before you in song to the Lord, whether in a large gathering, their homes, or hidden underground somewhere amidst severe persecution.

Even though we are not gathered physically this morning, we can experience spiritual unity through the same liturgy, prayers, scripture readings, and hymns. Though we will not have our sanctuary this morning, we will have each other. It's a good reminder that the church is ultimately not a building, but a people, and even more, God's people, the bride of Jesus Christ. We can pray, sing, and listen to God's Word knowing that He is present with us, feeding us on His grace. And as is true Sunday to Sunday and every moment in between, we need Him. Oh, how we need Him. Thankfully, we have Him.

NOTE

Before you jump in, take several minutes to quiet your hearts and listen to this setting of the 3rd Psalm. | [**LISTEN**](#)

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

We begin our time with a call to worship to remember together that worship starts with God, not us.

CALL TO WORSHIP | PSALM 100:3-5

LEADER: Know that the LORD, he is God!

ALL: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people,
and the sheep of his pasture.

LEADER: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

ALL: Give thanks to him; bless his name!

LEADER: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

ALL: and his faithfulness to all generations.

HYMN | "O, LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO" | [LISTEN & SING](#)

ALL: O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back this life I owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray, and in Your sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

**Rejoice, my heart! Rejoice, my soul! My Savior God has come to thee
Rejoice, my heart! You've been made whole
by a Love that will not let me go!**

O Joy that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain;
that morn shall tearless be!

O Cross that lifts and holds my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red;
life that shall endless be!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

PROMPTS: Praise God for his power and his goodness.
Praise God for his steadfast love.
Thank God for his faithfulness to his people.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: HEIDELBERG CATECHISM Q/A 1

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

ALL: That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself, but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of His own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that He protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit His purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

A healthy reorientation to the reality that God is holy, we are sinners. and Jesus saves us.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ALL: Our great God and Father, we are quick to lose heart. Even though Your Word assures us that our present troubles are light and momentary compared to the eternal weight of glory, we confess that we focus far more often on the temporary things that we can see than on eternal things that we cannot see. Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, we pray that You will help us to live and love and obey in light of eternity – through Your power and for Your glory, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

NOTE: Please allow 45-60 seconds for people to confess silently. God's whispers are louder than the shouts of the dark.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | ROMANS 8:31B-34

LEADER: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

PROMPTS: Thank God that he forgives our sins and heals our diseases. (Psalm 103)

Pray for the needs of the world.

- Elected leaders and other officials
- The current Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic

Pray for the needs of Peoria.

- Poverty, racial strife, homelessness, etc.
- Schools, local institutions, local leaders, etc.

Pray for the needs of the Church (local & global).

- Ministers, leaders, and missionaries
- Redemption's ministries – their unity, mission, and impact
- People who are sick, grieving, unemployed, losing faith, etc.
- People who are struggling with various challenges

Pray for the building of God's kingdom.

THE LORD'S PRAY

ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

HYMN | "GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS" | [LISTEN & SING](#)

ALL: Great is Thy faithfulness, oh God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be

REFRAIN: **Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!**
Morning by morning, new mercies I see!
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

I could not love Thee, so blind and unfeeling
Covenant promises fell not to me;
Then, without warning, desire, or deserving
I found my Treasure, my pleasure in Thee **[REFRAIN]**

I have no merit to woo or delight Thee
I have no wisdom or powers to employ
Yet, in Thy mercy, how pleasing Thou finds me
This is Thy pleasure – that Thou art my joy **[REFRAIN]**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **[REFRAIN]**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

"Do you want to hear God speak? Read the Bible out loud." – John Piper

SCRIPTURE READING | HABAKKUK 3:17-18

LEADER: Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROMPTS: Pray that God would meet with his people through his Word.
 Pray that God would open our hearts and minds by his Spirit.
 Thank God that his Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

SERMON | HABAKKUK: MINOR PROPHET, MAJOR LESSON

What does it really mean to truly be Christian in moments of heightened fear?

Pastor Sean takes us to Habakkuk for that answer. [WATCH](#)

HYMN | “COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING” | [LISTEN & SING](#)

ALL: Come, thou fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand’ring from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I’m constrained to be;
Let thy grace, like a fetter, bind my wand’ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it – prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

BENEDICTION

A blessing for the road, or even into social distancing.

CLOSING BLESSING | EPHESIANS 3:20-21

LEADER: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in
Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever!

LEADER: Peace be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

DOXOLOGY

ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.



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