

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Preparation for Worship

*Psalm 104:31-34 (NKJV)*

*May the glory of the LORD endure forever; May the LORD rejoice in His works.*

*He looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke.*

*I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.*

*May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD.*

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Welcome

I am so very glad to welcome you to this worship service. To paraphrase the Apostle Paul's greeting to "the church of the Thessalonians" let me say: *Grace and peace to you. I always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in my prayers. I remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.* My sincere thanks for responding to God's invitation to join in worship today. Again, grace and peace to all of you! -Pastor Karl

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration

## GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

Hymn of Praise #71

"Praise to the Lord the Almighty"

*1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!*

*O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!*

*Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,*

*join me in glad adoration.*

*2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;*

*sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!*

*Have you not seen all that is needful has been*

*sent by his gracious ordaining?*

*3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;*

*surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.*

*Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,*

*if with his love he befriends you.*

*4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!*

*All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.*

*Let the Amen sound from his people again;*

*gladly forever adore him.*

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Prayer of Confession

**Lord, you have called us to worship you. We gladly gather! We joyfully sing! But as we praise you, we remember that when you have been faithful to us, we have sinned against you. Our worship fails to be what it could. We go through motions, pretending to honor you, but we are thinking about ourselves. We forget that you seek us, you**

**choose us, you want to engage us deeply. Forgive and renew us according to your steadfast love. Remind us of your covenant faithfulness, and have mercy on us in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Congregational Response #270

***O how he loves you and me, O how he loves you and me.***

***He gave his life—what more could he give? O how he loves you;***

***O how he loves me, O how he loves you and me.***

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Time with the Children (Kids spell Love T-I-M-E)

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

***...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.***

Prayer Response

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

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Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

## GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture

*Psalm 95:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3*

*1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.*

*2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. 3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; 7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice, 8 "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, 9 where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did. 10 For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"*

*1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. 2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work*

*produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)*

Sermon

“Invited to Worship”

Responding to God’s Invitation—from Romans 12:9-18 (NLT)

Pastor: Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

**People: Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.**

Pastor: Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

**People: Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.**

Pastor: When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

**People: Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them.**

Pastor: Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

**People: Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!**

Pastor: Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.

**People: Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.**

### **GO IN GOD’S NAME**

Hymn #68

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*1 Come, thou Fount of every 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 his name—I’m fixed upon it—name of God’s redeeming love.*

*2 Here I raise to thee an altar, 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, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.*

*3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering 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.*

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Benediction

*Thank you for worshipping with us!*



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*Declaring God's Grace & Demonstrating God's Love, as  
Directed by God's Word*