Call to Worship

from Psalm 18:1-2

We love you, Jesus! You are the mighty help who comes to our aid.

You are our hiding cave in the mountains.

You are our immovable tower of refuge.

You are our deliverer when we are trapped.

You are our storm shelter in the whirlwind.

You are our trust when we are confused and frightened.

You are our shield when we are under attack and accusation.

You are our dignity, our power, our victory.

You are our home.

You are our soul's resting place, where nothing can take us away from you.

Opening Hymn

"Jesus I Come to Thee"

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come; Into thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to thee. Out of my sickness and into thy health, Out of my want and into thy wealth, Out of my sin and into thyself, Jesus, I come to thee. Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come; Into the glorious gain of thy cross, Jesus, I come to thee. Out of earth's sorrows and into thy balm, Out of life's storms and into thy calm, Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to thee. Jesus, I come to thee. Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come; Into thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to thee. Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into the peace of thy sheltering fold, Ever thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to thee. Jesus, I come to thee.

words William T. Sleeper, 1887; music Nathan Partain, 2000

Prayer of Confession

Based on Romans 1:25; Luke 15:12-13; Romans 8:12; Ephesians 2:3; Galatians 5:19-21

Our Father and God made it plain to all humanity through creation and through the message of his word, who he is, that he is good, and that we are his creatures and that we are made for him.

But we have turned away from our Creator and Father, and our sin rightly condemns us.

- We exchange God for what he has made, looking for life and meaning in created things.
- We run away from home, telling our Dad, "I wish you were dead. Give me your stuff, so that I can live how I want."

Sin overpowers and masters us.

We do the very evil we don't want to. We can't seem to do the good we want to. "Why keep trying?" we despair. "Nothing will change."

We live according to the flesh, gratifying its cravings.

Our minds are set towards this world, what it offers. We covet and envy. We divide into factions. We dabble, and then indulge, in sexual immorality.

Who will rescue us from sin, the flesh, the world, and the devil?

Song in the Gospel

"Come Holy Spirit, God and Lord"

(women) Alleluia (men) Alleluia (women) Alleluia

Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord! Let all your graces be outpoured, On each believer's mind and heart, Your fervent love to us impart.

Lord, by the brightness of your light, You, in the faith, your saints unite, Of every land and every tongue; This to your praise, O Lord, be sung.

(women) Alleluia (men) Alleluia (women) Alleluia

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Based on Romans 8:1-4; Galatians 5:13-26

Jesus Christ has come in the flesh even more, the likeness of sinful flesh to condemn sin and crucify the sinful flesh.

Christ's life, Christ's obedience, Christ's righteousness are all ours in him.

The Son became a sin-offering for us: all your condemnation, your guilt, your failure, your self-righteousness has been poured out on him!

Praise be to God: we are justified, forgiven, and freed! Jesus has become the resurrected, ascended Lord in heaven, from where he has poured out his Spirit to give you life.

Let us then

live by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, bear the fruit of the Spirit, and keep in step with the Spirit.

Song in the Gospel

"Come Holy Spirit, God and Lord"

From every error keep us free; Let none but Christ our master be, That we in living faith abide In him, with all our might confide.

Lord, by your pow'r prepare each heart And to the weakness strength impart, That bravely here we may contend Through life, and death to you ascend.

(women) Alleluia (men) Alleluia (women) Alleluia

words Martin Luther, 1524, from 11th cent. antiphon; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855; music Nathan Partain, 2000

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Scripture

Romans 8:1-4

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn "Nothing but the Blood"

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O precious is the flow, That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon, this I see, Nothing but the blood of Jesus; For my cleansing this my plea, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O precious is the flow, That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Nothing can for sin atone, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Naught of good that I have done, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O precious is the flow, That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. This is all my righteousness, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O precious is the flow, That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Now by this I'll overcome, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Now by this I'll reach my home, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. O precious is the flow, That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O precious is the flow, That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Robert Lowry, 1876; Public Domain