

Home Service for August 10, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

Do not be afraid little flock, it is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Call to Worship:

From the rising to the setting sun, God summons us.

In the perfect beauty all around us, God brightens our hearts.

When we worship with acts of love and mercy, God is pleased to give us the kingdom. Come! Let justice and righteousness be our worship.

Opening Prayer:

Mighty God, dress us for action, for the world is in need of our care. Turn us from our selfish ways and help us share the fat of this good land. For when we refuse and rebel, we reap what we have sown. Your care and compassion call to us. Your mercy and grace reach out to us. Heal us day, and may it be your good pleasure to give us the kingdom. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

When our prayers and devotions are divorced from works of love and justice, we long to return to your ways. Wash us with your grace and mercy and help us store up treasure in heaven where neither thief nor moth destroy. Remove the evil we harbor in our hearts, and transform our selfish deeds into acts of righteousness. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Don't be afraid, little flock.

God delights in giving us the kingdom.

Read Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

The Mighty One, God, the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

² From Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines forth.

³ Our God comes
and will not be silent;

a fire devours before him,
 and around him a tempest rages.
⁴He summons the heavens above,
 and the earth, that he may judge his people:
⁵“Gather to me this consecrated people,
 who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”
⁶And the heavens proclaim his righteousness,
 for he is a God of justice.^{[a][b]}

⁷“Listen, my people, and I will speak;
 I will testify against you, Israel:
 I am God, your God.
⁸I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices
 or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me.

²²“Consider this, you who forget God,
 or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you:
²³Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me,
 and to the blameless^[a] I will show my salvation.”

Prayers of the People:

Lord of peace and justice, how easy it is for us to fall into the trap of complacency. We get used to doing things the way we have always done them before. We celebrate your love and rejoice in your gifts through our ministry of worship and sacrament. We place our abundance before you in offerings to enable ministries of hope to flourish. Yet we hang back. We feel that we have done enough. We think that we have met the challenge of your call to us. Wake us up! Shake us up! Get us excited about all the wondrous ways in which we can serve you! Do not let our awareness of the needs of others be expressed only in our prayers for healing and compassion. Shape us to be people of justice and peace, bringing the glorious news of your love to all people. Stretch us out! Make us truly disciples who are always ready to help others. Create in us a new spirit and a joyful energy to serve you. For we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is The kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

Read the Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

- ¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
- ¹¹ “The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?” says the Lord.
“I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
- ¹² When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?
- ¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.
- ¹⁴ Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals
I hate with all my being.
They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
- ¹⁵ When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.
- Your hands are full of blood!

¹⁶ Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.
¹⁷ Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.^[a]
Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.
¹⁸ “Come now, let us settle the matter,”
says the Lord.
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.
¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,
you will eat the good things of the land;
²⁰ but if you resist and rebel,
you will be devoured by the sword.”
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Read the Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.

³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she^[a] considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a

distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Read the Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Message

The letter to the Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were being tempted to revert to Judaism because of persecution. In order to persuade them not to throw away their faith, Hebrews 11 emphasizes that the Old Testament believers were saved in the same way New Testament believers are, through faith in God’s promises.

What exactly is faith? A blind leap in the dark? A fuzzy feeling that everything will somehow work out? Verse one defines faith like this: “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Faith is a solid trust in things we cannot prove. This does not mean that faith is blind, for faith sees God’s promises and bases its trust on that. For example, we believe that the universe was created by God’s command. While we do not have a video proof that God created the world in this manner, we believe it to be true because God said that is the way it happened. That is faith!

The Christian faith is the only faith built upon the solid foundation of Christ the Rock. What does this mean for the followers of Christ? Believers are absolutely sure of eternal salvation in an unsure world. Believers are positively certain God is in control in every situation. Faith is being sure and certain! We gather around that very word of God that is our absolute surety and certainty in this uncertain world. May we diligently pay attention to God's word so that it dawns, rises, and shines in our hearts and lives each day!

For His word, presents the very clear theme and encouragement that is outlined in this chapter. The "ancients" are the ancestors of all believers. Their faith was sure and certain. The Old Testament believers lived by faith and not by sight. God's grace saved them all. Abraham heard God's call, listened, and followed by faith. He was 75 years old. This was an enormous leap of faith for Abraham. He left behind everything that was familiar. Abraham knew that his earthly life was only temporary. He had no permanency. Abraham kept looking ahead. The city with foundations built by God was still to come. This was not an earthly city. It was not the city of Jerusalem. Heaven was that city. The people never returned to their home countries. They were looking to heaven. Abraham put his trust, his faith completely and entirely on the promises of the Lord God Almighty. As believers we are to do the same today. We may live in a sin filled world and have a sinful nature. At times, we turn to the experts for their wisdom. Sometimes we think our plans or ideas are the best and the only ones that matter. The Lord warns every believer to be careful, for trust in man often turns hearts away from the Lord.

Faith is being sure and certain. God's promises never, never, ever fail. Check out all the pages of Scripture. Not one promise of God has failed. Jesus Christ is the same: yesterday, today, and forever. Still the world surrounds us and embraces us. We all too easily get caught up in the attractions and distraction in our own earthly lives. Every day the news seems to get worse. The planet is heating up or cooling down. A storm may come or not. The economy cannot get any worse or it might. Yes, the world tries to choke out the truth of God's word. All too often worldly worries take away the fruitfulness God intends for our faith and lives. God's saving truth is simple. God's saving truth is the most powerful and blessed treasure given to us. Christ is our Savior. Our sins are forgiven. The precious blood of Jesus washes our sins away. People once asked Jesus what they must do to be able to do the work of God. Jesus had to remind them of the simplicity of eternal salvation. John 6:29: "Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'" The believer's salvation does not depend on his or her work. Eternal salvation is the work of God's word that can make believers out of all, even the enemies of God at times.

By faith we believe the promises of God. Let us remember that Abraham left his homeland. He believed God's promises. Why would he leave family and friends, because Abraham knew that God had created the earth. He would still be in God's care. Abraham received God's blessings. It was not because of his faith but by God's faithfulness. God promised. Abraham believed. Abraham and Sarah both receive God's blessings. No greater marriage blessing than children. Abraham is the father of all believers. By faith, believers today are called the children of Abraham. The Savior was from Abraham's line.

Verse 13: "All these" are all the believers who lived and died by faith: Abel, Noah, Moses, Jacob, to name a few from the Old Testament. God promised a Savior. They did not see him, but they did receive the benefit of God's promise. God created all things. God created all believers. God loves them always. Believers today may have an even greater challenge than believers in Old Testament times to look forward to the blessings of God. We live our lives in a very permanent way. We build houses with strong foundations. We put down roots and anchor ourselves securely on this planet. We gather so much "stuff" in our lives that we have to build storage facilities for all of our things, but we forget that we are only passing through.

When we pay attention, what do we hear? There are wars, rumors of wars, and disaster after disaster. There is unrest in the lives, hearts, and very souls of nations. Believers have that faith that rises far above the cares and worries of this world. Jesus appeared to his disciples in the upper room and provided them with that peace the world could not give. Today the world does not even try to provide anyone with peace. We have peace and joy that is eternal. Jesus has a place prepared for us at the house of God. Faith receives blessings.

Freely and by his grace God gave his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior and the Savior of all mankind. As believers we know, believe, and confess all that God has done for us. By faith we believe that Christ is our Savior. Thus, we receive the blessings of God through his Son our Savior. Yes, peace and joy are ours in a world that is anything but peaceful and not joyful. God's blessing is forgiveness. Our faith understands and believes in forgiveness. Our souls are at peace with God.

Troubled, worried, or distracted by your life or this world? Know that there is nothing that can stand up against the power of God. This also means that there is nothing at all that can stand up against us. Christ is alive and well and living in us. By faith we continue to live in him. I am convinced that nothing and no one can or will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Believers are always to be sure and certain in this as we live in this unsure and uncertain world, that the Lord God Almighty is our all in all. Remember that

FAITH IS BEING SURE AND CERTAIN. Now, as you believe God's promises may you always continue to receive God's blessings. Amen.

Benediction:

Children of God, by faith, God has brought us this far. Go now in the blessing of the God who goes before you and behind you, surrounding you on all sides with grace as we journey toward a better country in our neighborhood, our community, and beyond. Amen.