

Sunday Morning Worship

August 31, 2025



**FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO**

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

301-952-0117 :: www.fbcum.org :: fbcum@firstbaptistum.com

Order of Worship

August 31, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — Galatians 2:20

Song — Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Song — All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Scripture Reading — Ephesians 4:1-16

Pastoral Prayer

Song — A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel

“Our God Scatters His Enemies”

Psalm 68

Song — God Shall Arise (Psalm 68)

Benediction

Comfort Rooms: To help accommodate families with small children and individuals with special needs or medical conditions, a live video feed of the worship service is available in rooms 116, 117/118, 119, 120-125.

Visitors & Guests: Stop by the Welcome Desk for church information and to receive a welcome packet.

Call to Worship — Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

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<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

## Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson

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Verse 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 the name! I'm fixed upon it,
Name of Thy redeeming love.

Verse 2:

Hither to Thy love has blessed me
Thou hast brought me to this place;
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace;
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Verse 3:

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, 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, Lord, Take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Verse 4:

O that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass;
For I know Thy power will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Edward Perronet | John Rippon | Judah Groveman

Verse 1:

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all

Verse 2:

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race
Ye ransomed from the fall
Hail Him who saves you
by His grace and crown Him Lord of all
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all

Chorus:

His name is Jesus,
Risen Lamb, for sinners slain
His name is Jesus
All creation sings the praise
Of Jesus name

Verse 3:

Let every kindred every tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all

Verse 4:

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all

Scripture Reading — Ephesians 4:1-16 (ESV)

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

(continued on next page)

Scripture Reading — (continued)

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther | Matt Boswell | Frederick Hedge

Verse 1:

A mighty fortress is our God
A bulwark never failing
Our Helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe
His craft and pow'r are great
And armed with cruel hate
On earth is not His equal

Verse 2:

Did we in our own strength confide
Our striving would be losing
Were not the right man on our side
The man of God's own choosing
Dost ask who that may be
Christ Jesus it is He
The Lord of Hosts, His name
From age to age the same
And He must win the battle

Chorus:

A mighty fortress! A rock unfailing
The King of Glory forever! Amen!
For endless ages enthroned in praises
The King of Glory forever! Amen!

Verse 3:

And tho' this world with devils filled
Should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us
The prince of darkness grim
We tremble not for him
His rage we can endure
For lo his doom is sure
One little word shall fell him

Verse 4:

That word above all earthly pow'rs
No thanks to them abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Thro' Him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go
This mortal life also
The body they may kill
God's truth abideth still
His kingdom is forever

Sermon Notes

“Our God Scatters His Enemies” :: Psalm 68

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# God Shall Arise (Psalm 68)

Jason Brown | Mike Rogers | Zach Schlegel

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Verse 1:

God shall arise and scatter His foes.
All who oppose Him shall flee.
As they are driven from His Holy presence
None shall escape their defeat.
God shall arise the righteous rejoice.
Filled with great joy they shall sing.
As they are drawn to His Holy presence
Jubilant praises they'll bring.

Chorus:

Sing unto God. O Praise His Great Name.
He leads out the pris'ner to freedom unchained.
Our God, the King stands alone.
As Shield and Defender, Redeemer, Protector
Father of orphans who calls His own home.

Verse 2:

Blessed be the Lord, Victorious King,
Justice revealed in His might.
Kings and their armies
are conquered before Him.
The guilty are sentenced to die.
Blessed be the Lord who daily sustains.
He will deliver from death
Those He has called to His great procession
to eternal praises and rest.

Verse 3:

God rose and marched before His beloved.
The earth quaked the skies rained abroad.
His flock found their dwelling
which He had provided.
Proving the goodness of God.
From out of the grave Jesus arose,
conquering death and it's sting.
He is the Light, the Truth and The Way
to dwell with the Almighty King!

God Shall Arise

Psalm 68

Jason Brown
Mike Rogers
Zach Schlegel

VERSES

Vocals

Dm Gm/B \flat A sus Dm Am

1. God shall a - rise and sca-tter His foes. — All who o - ppose Him shall flee.
2. Blessed be the Lord, Vic - to - rious — King. — Jus - tice re - vealed in His might.
3. God rose and marched be - fore His be - loved the earth quaked, the skies rained a - broad. His

Vox.

5 Gm Am B \flat Gm C Dm

As they are dri - ven from His Ho - ly pre - sence None shall es - cape their de - feat.
Kings and their ar - mies are con - quered be - fore Him the guil - ty are sent - enced to die.
flock found their dwe - lling which He had pro - vi - ded Pro - ving the good - ness of God.

Vox.

9 Dm Gm/B \flat A sus Dm C

God shall a - rise the right - eous re - joice. Filled with great joy they shall sing.
Blessed be the Lord who dai - ly sus - tains. He will de - li - ver from death
(from) out of the grave — Je - sus a - rose con - quer - ing death and it's sting.

Vox.

13 Gm Am B \flat Gm C Dm

As they are drawn — to His Ho - ly pre - sence Ju - bi - lant prai - ses they'll bring. Sing un - to
Those He has called — to His great pro - ce - ssion to e - ter - nal prai - ses and rest.
He is the Light and the Truth and The Way to dwell with the Al - migh - ty King.

CHORUS

Vox.

18 F C Gm Dm/A F/B \flat C

God. O Praise His great Name. He leads out the pri - s'ner to free - dom un - chained. Our

Vox.

22 F C Gm Dm/A B \flat Dm/C

God, the King stands a - lone. As Shield and De - fen - der, Re - dee - mer, Pro - tect - or

Vox.

26 Gm Dm/A F/B \flat F/C Dm

Fa - ther of or - phans who calls His own home.

This Week at First Baptist Church

Sunday, August 31

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2

Wednesday, September 3

6:30 PM Church Prayer Meeting

Thursday, September 4

Friday, September 5

Saturday, September 6

6:30 AM Bible Boot Camp

8:30 AM Titus 2 (Ladies)

Sunday, September 7

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

6:00 PM Youth Night

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

Wednesday, September 3

6:30 PM — Church Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, September 10

Regular Wednesday Evening Schedule Resumes
(AWANA, Bible Study, King's Kids & Adult Choirs)

Sunday, September 14

5:00 PM — Church Picnic on the Front Lawn

Friday, October 10

6:30 PM — Women's Dessert & Song Event

Sunday, October 26

Starting Point Seminar — immediately following worship service
(Seminar for those interested in church membership. Contact the church office to register
or use the Digital Communication Card on the back of this bulletin.)

Praying with First Baptist Church

A Prayer Guide for the week of August 31

Prayer of the week:

One of the ways we learn to pray is by using the examples in Scripture as a springboard and inspiration for our own prayer life. This week, we encourage you to use the prayer that concludes the book of Hebrews in 13:20-21:

“²⁰ May the God of peace... ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

We recognize our need for God’s help in all the areas of our lives. The categories and requests listed below are intentional ways to pray for each other as a church family. For help in knowing how and what to pray for, look up the Scripture included with each item.

Ongoing prayer items in the life of our church:

- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with loved ones (Matt. 28:19)
- Pray for conversions (John 3:3, Acts 16:14)
- Pray for the children of our church to hear and understand the gospel and be saved. (Luke 8:8)
- Pray for the preaching of God’s word – for faithfulness, fruitfulness, and God’s glory (2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Cor. 2:4-5, Isa. 55:10-11)
- Pray for increased one to one discipleship relationships in our church family (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray for unity in our diversity both on Sunday and through the week (Rom. 15:13, Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for continued growth and joy in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-5, 2 Pet. 1:12)
- Pray for growth in holiness, hatred of sin and growth in humility (Prov. 8:13, 1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- Pray for honest, loving relationships in our church (Col. 3:12-13, James 5:16)
- Pray for families: marriages to thrive, parents to teach/love/discipline carefully, and children to obey (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- Pray that giving would be faithful, joyful, consistent, and sacrificial (2 Cor. 8:9)

Prayer items outside our church:

- Pray that our elected officials would fear God, seek His wisdom, have integrity, humility, and work together for the good of society and not self. (1 Tim. 2:1-2, Rom. 13:1-7)
- Pray for fruitful ministry in other gospel-proclaiming churches in our area. (Rom. 15:20, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray that God would bring a swift end to wars going on throughout the world and establish peace. Pray for protection and care for the many refugees fleeing to safety. Pray that those impacted would trust in God in the midst of their suffering. (Ps. 139:23-24)

- Pray for our ministry partners locally and around the world—Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB). Pray especially for those we have direct partnerships with: Jeremy McClain (Mercy of Christ Fellowship Church, DC), Joel Kurz (The Garden Church, Baltimore), Daniel and Brandy Spandler-Davison and Susanna Schriever (Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand). Pray the gospel would flourish and churches would be planted and strengthened through their work. Pray that God would supply their needs. (Ps 93:4, Col. 1:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:12-17)

Particular prayer items in the life of our church:

- Praise God for the new members recently brought into our church family: Joe and Diane Carter, Ciara Cook, Sharon Faxio, Jennifer Gonzalez, Nolan Hawit, Verna Hinton, Pearl Nicholls, Joseph Nkwetaketu and Martha Tacham Epse Tangu, Caleb and Kelsie Rathbun, Hudson Schlegel, Greg and Beth Spraul, Ella Spraul, Bonita Taylor. Pray that God would unify us in Jesus Christ and that opportunities for fellowship would abound (Rom. 15:5-6, Acts 2:42)
- Pray for teachers and students in our church family who are going back to school in the coming weeks. Pray they would depend on God and trust Him as they start a new school year. Pray that learning and teaching would be done with excellence to the glory of God (Prov. 3:5-6; 1 Cor. 10:31). See a list of out-of-town college students toward the back of your church directory.
- Pray we would care more about God's opinion of us than the praise of man. (Pr 29:25; 14:26)
- Pray that our church family would not grow weary of doing good. Pray that we would live and interact with one another in a way that reveals God's steadfast love and mercy to the world. (Gal 6:9)
- Pray that we know a profound contentment no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in – a contentment from knowing God is our help. (Heb. 13:5-6)
- Pray God would guard our church from fear, anxiety, and disunity. Pray that we would trust that God is good and be assured that He is in control. (John 13:34-35)
- Pray that God would help us comprehend his good design for the church and center our lives around it for the sake of his glory being made known. (Eph 3:10; 3:21)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

Margaret Austin, Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Jim and Pat Ernster, Lucie Lowe, Melissa Thomaswicks, Bonnie Trott, Glenn Walker

(To submit a prayer request, please use the Prayer Request Card available in the sanctuary and drop them in the offering basket or contact the Prayer Room at 301-952-8877.)

Ministry Spotlight

“Ministry Spotlight” is meant to bring to your attention active church ministries and programs at FBC Upper Marlboro. We hope that each month you will pray for all those serving and consider how you may support their efforts. *You may notify us if you would like to learn more about the ministries at FBCUM by using the Digital Communication Card (see QR code on the back of this bulletin). Pick up a copy of “Places to Serve” in the magazine racks near the exits for information on all the church ministries.*

Music Ministry (Band and Choir)



What a privilege and honor it is to serve in this ministry. The Music Ministry has the pleasure and responsibility to serve our church in leading us in praising God and preparing our hearts for worship. Most of us deal with distractions daily. We make decisions, have conflicts, learn about other concerns that affect us or the people we love and the events of any given day. It can certainly weigh you down. Then there may be a traffic incident on the way to church or the kids or you may have delayed your

arrival and you feel rushed. Your mind is racing through all of this and you think about what you will have to do later in the afternoon etc. These are but a few reasons why we have a time of praise through song, prayer and scripture reading each Sunday morning. Our role specifically, is to help you prepare for this time when everything else goes to the backburner in your mind and your focus is wholly on the Lord. We sing and play to the Lord and you sing the songs and the lyrics speak to your heart. Those other things that once seemed so important are now a reminder of why the time that we spend praising God is so much more necessary. Your heart is attuned to focus solely on the Lord.

The Music Ministry is also very unique in that we are able to engage with members of our congregation to sing and play music together to lead our congregation on Sunday mornings to praise and worship the Lord. And our choir is representative of our congregation, we welcome you to join us in singing God's praises. Our hope is to demonstrate that during this time you can let go and allow the Holy Spirit to lift you up in praise to the Lord and refresh and renew you.

Ministry Spotlight

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There is quite a bit of effort involved in preparing for each Sunday's service. As the Music Director, Jason Brown, meets with the Elders on Tuesday morning and they review the Sunday worship service and then they look at the upcoming sermon scriptures to select the music that best supports the context of the sermon and they also keep in mind how the scripture may feature joy or lament because the music will prepare us to see our Lord as He delivers us in joy and suffering.

Once these songs are selected, sheet music is prepared for each band members part and lyric sheets are prepared for the vocalists. Most Wednesday nights the band and vocalists (choir) report to practice the music with the members of the Audio Visual Ministry to ensure that on Sunday morning they will be ready to share the gospel through song with the congregation. These meetings usually start around 6:30pm ending about 8pm. It takes dedication to make all of this happen. Also, have you noticed that all of the songs are Biblically sound proclaiming the gospel and aspects of God's character? This is purposeful that even in song we are proclaiming the truth of God's word.



***This is a glimpse of what it looks like from behind the scenes of the Music Ministry. I am very pleased with the effort, time and dedication that is involved in preparing for each Sunday's worship service. Next week we will seek to share highlights on the band, choir and how you may get started. If you are interested in speaking to someone about joining the Music Ministry, please contact our Music Director, Jason Brown.***

# Announcements

1. **Church Prayer Meeting and Fellowship Meal— THIS Wednesday, Sept 3.** We look forward to prayer, testimony, and encouragement from God's Word this Wed. at 6:30pm. Come early at 5:30pm and enjoy a simple meal and fellowship. If you would like to help with the meal, contact Jess Almy.

2. **Lord's Supper Celebration — Next Sunday, Sept 7.** We encourage you to prayerfully prepare your heart to receive the Lord's Supper together and make any necessary steps of reconciliation with brothers or sisters in Christ in the church before we gather.

3. **New DiscipleLIFE Classes for Adults Begin Sept 7.** See page 15 below for class descriptions and info.

4. **Regular Wednesday Evening Schedule Resumes — Sept 10.** Regular Wednesday evening activities (Choirs, AWANA, Elder-led Bible Study) will resume on September 10.

5. **AWANA Registration OPEN.** Awana is a Bible memory program for kids 3 years - 6th grade that is designed to help the church come alongside parents as they disciple their children. Club meetings are exciting times with Bible lessons, energetic game time, and small groups where kids recite verses they've studied at home. We meet weekly from 6:30-8:00pm on Wednesdays (Sept - May) except the first Wednesday of each month when we have church prayer meetings. Fees vary but are generally \$35 or less per child. Questions? Contact Ronnie and Chrissy Sweetman. Register using the QR code.



6. **Preschool Volunteers Needed.** We are in need of a few more adult volunteers in the nursery to help provide a caring environment for our kiddos (aged 0-4) during worship. Volunteers serve on a six-week rotation schedule (about 8x a year). There are no special skills required except a love for kiddos and their families. If you're interested or have questions, contact Pam Jensen or Ashley Meekins-Smith ASAP.

7. **Church Picnic on the Front Lawn—Sunday, Sept 14 at 5pm.** The church will provide pork BBQ and bottled water. You bring any picnic items you'd like for your family (side dishes, dessert, lawn chairs, blankets, games, etc). We're looking forward to a fun afternoon of fellowship as a church family. If you're available to help with setup or clean up, please email Jason Brown (jbrown@firstbaptistum.com)

8. **Giving.** We thank God for the faithful giving of our church family that sustains the gospel ministry here at FBC Upper Marlboro. As a reminder, there are three ways you can give:

- **online:** click the link or scan the QR code,
- **in-person:** designated boxes in the church foyer or during the worship service,
- **by mail:** send to the church office.



Church members with a benevolence request, please contact the church office.



## **Digital Communication Card**

Are you interested in receiving more information about the church, meeting with a pastor, or sharing a prayer need? Scan the QR code to fill in our digital communication card and someone will follow up with you. You're always welcome to contact the church office: 301-952-0117.

# Praying Psalm 68 — Our God Scatters His Enemies

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For 2 or 3 days this week, set aside 15 minutes to pray through Psalm 68. For help on how to pray the Psalms, refer back to the bulletin insert from July 6 “Singing and Praying the Psalms”.

Psalm 68. GOD SHALL SCATTER HIS ENEMIES. ¹ God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him! ² As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God! ³ But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him! ⁵ Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. ⁶ God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, ⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel. ⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad; you restored your inheritance as it languished; ¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

¹¹ The Lord gives the word; the women who announce the news are a great host: ¹² “The kings of the armies—they flee, they flee!” The women at home divide the spoil—¹³ though you men lie among the sheepfolds—the wings of a dove covered with silver, its pinions with shimmering gold. ¹⁴ When the Almighty scatters kings there, let snow fall on Zalmon.

¹⁵ O mountain of God, mountain of Bashan; O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan! ¹⁶ Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain, at the mount that God desired for his abode, yes, where the LORD will dwell forever? ¹⁷ The chariots of God are twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary. ¹⁸ You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there.

¹⁹ Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. ²⁰ Our God is a God of salvation, and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death. ²¹ But God will strike the heads of his enemies, the hairy crown of him who walks in his guilty ways. ²² The Lord said, “I will bring them back from Bashan, I will bring them back from the depths of the sea,” ²³ that you may strike your feet in their blood, that the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from the foe.”

²⁴ Your procession is seen, O God, the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary—²⁵ the singers in front, the musicians last, between them virgins playing tambourines: ²⁶ “Bless God in the great congregation, the LORD, O you who are of Israel's fountain!” ²⁷ There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead, the princes of Judah in their throng, the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.

²⁸ Summon your power, O God, the power, O God, by which you have worked for us. ²⁹ Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings shall bear gifts to you. ³⁰ Rebuke the beasts that dwell among the reeds, the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples. Trample underfoot those who lust after tribute; scatter the peoples who delight in war. ³¹ Nobles shall come from Egypt; Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God.

³² O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord, ³³ to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. ³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. ³⁵ Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

Praising God: In the Bible the ‘name’ of God (v4) refers to His character, who He is. As you read and pray through Psalm 68, note all the truths about who He is and give Him praise as the ‘Father of the fatherless and protector of widows’ (v5), the ‘Almighty’ who conquers His enemies (v14, 34), the God who is good in all He does (v10), the just Judge (v21).

Confessing Sin: Knowing that victory belongs to our great and my God, are their ways your heart has doubted and given into sinful fear? In days when the wicked prosper and the righteous struggle, have you envied the wicked or been tempted to take matters into your own hands? If so, confess that to God and commit yourself in utter reliance to God.

Following God: Rather than being intimidated by the kings and rulers of this world, knowing that victory belongs to our God frees us to boldly share the gospel both here in Maryland and around the world, inviting the ‘kingdoms of the earth’ to ‘sing praises to the Lord’ (v32). Who can you share the good news of Jesus Christ with today?

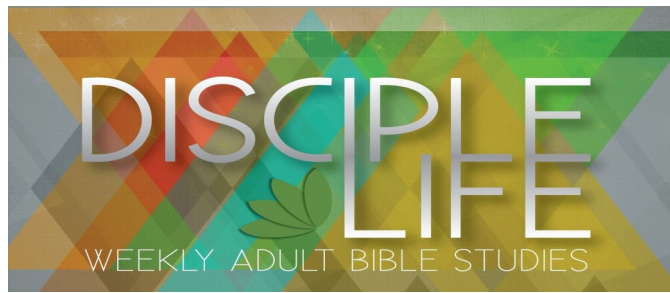
Things to Pray for First Baptist Church:

- 1. Pray that we are marked by a boldness that is rooted in the fear of God (Prov. 14:26) and the victory we have in Christ rather than fear, panic, or adopting the ways of the world to get things done.
- 2. Pray that we use the gifts of the Spirit entrusted to each of us as Christians (as bounty from God’s victory over sin, Satan, and death) so that we grow together as a church family (Eph. 4:8, 15-16).

Singing Psalm 68 — “God Shall Arise”



Having prayed through Psalm 68, now take the time to sing a song that was inspired by the truths of the psalm written by Jason Brown, Mike Rogers, and Zach Schlegel titled, “God Shall Arise”. A recording can be found on the church webpage under the resources for this week’s sermon. The lyrics can be found on page 7.



Fall 2025 (Sept. - Nov.) DiscipleLIFE Classes for adults:

FALL SESSION BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPT 7 @ 9AM

To help us prepare, we are asking that everyone sign up for the class they wish to attend by [clicking here](#).

Explore the Bible – Numbers/Deuteronomy:

As road trips wind down, travelers start thinking about the work waiting for them back home. The ancient Israelites were no exception. The books of Numbers and Deuteronomy recount how the nation of Israel wandered in the wilderness for four decades and how God taught them to be His people as they approached the promised land. He wanted to remind them how much still needed to be done once they got “home.” As you study these final two books of the Pentateuch, ask God to show you what He longs to accomplish in you and through you. Learn how to avoid a life of spiritual wandering and embrace the best He has to offer. (Books available in room 117/118 starting Sunday, 8/24.)

- **Explore the Bible (Coed) — Room 117/118 :: Teachers: Bill Lowry & Tony Edwards**
- **Explore the Bible (Women) — Room 115 :: Teacher: Tanya Joy**

If you are remaining in your current Explore the Bible Class, there is no need to sign up again.

Elective Class — Assurance of Salvation and the Doctrine of Conversion (Coed):

“Am I really a Christian? How can I know? What if my confidence is based on the wrong thing? What if my despair is misinformed? What is a Christian?” Come join us as we dig into God’s word and look at the doctrine of conversion to understand what it means to be a Christian and how God creates a people for Himself. In looking at the doctrine of conversion, we’ll consider how it applies to our individual lives, families, parenting, and our life together as a church.

- **Room 114 :: Teachers - Zach Schlegel & Zak Kergel**

Elective Class — Gospel-Centered Work (Young Adult Coed):

In this class you’ll discover how the good news about Jesus transforms the way we think about our work in surprising and practical ways. The study guide will be available for \$9.00

- **Room 112 :: Teachers - Tyrone Moorehead and Vaughn Lawson**

**** DiscipleLIFE classes for all ages meet every Sunday morning at 9am. ****



Singing and Praying the Psalms

[Psalm 68](#)

"Our God Scatters His Enemies"— August 31, 2025



Introduction

The main idea of this Psalm is crystal clear - God wins! The Warrior King is victorious in a battle that He fights for us. Do you believe that? Do you believe that God will win? One look at the news headlines may cause us to pause and wonder if this is true. There is an evil that hates Christians, and there is a lot of darkness in this world. These things might leave you discouraged or depressed and leave you asking, "will God win? Is God good? Is He really in control?"

In spite of what we feel, God tells us the truth in this Psalm. He is the undefeated, indisputable winner. This Psalm brings us good news. It should shape how we live, think, speak, pray, and sing.

Sermon Outline

1. Trust God with the future. Vs. 1-6
2. Remember God's past deliverance. Vs. 7-18
3. Rest confident in God's present care. Vs. 19-35

Read & Discuss

1. Read vs. 1 – 6

Moses prayed this first verse as the children of Israel were about to move. ([Numbers 10:35](#)) This becomes a future conviction for David. God SHALL arise. David's confidence was based on God's character.

[Psalm two](#) tells us that the nation, but God deals with His enemies like a puff of smoke. They are no challenge to God. His rule and authority extends to all people in all nations around the world. ([Daniel 4:35](#)) When it comes to the mess you see around the world and even in your own heart, all God has to do is say one little word and the mess will be fixed. God does according to His will. Everything He wants to happen, will. So why does He sometimes refrain from fixing the problems? Sometimes the best answer you can give is "I don't know." We have a limited perspective. Remember, in God's goodness, He may put you in a tough situation so that you learn to pray. You are meant to pray psalms.

How is God being a victorious warrior, good news? ([Vs. 4](#)) God doesn't like killing people for the sake of killing people. That would not be good news. God's character is seen in [vs. 5](#). He is the Father of the fatherless and the Protector of widows. He sees and protects the vulnerable. God's compassion, name, and heart well up for the vulnerable. As the Warrior God, He fights as a Protector.

He fights to provide the lonely with a home. The enemy wants to enslave, but God fights to set the captive free. He is the Prince of Peace, but He is not a pacifist. He fights to establish righteousness and peace. This truth about God is a challenge to believers. If God cares like this, so should we. The husband/father in the home should to protect and provide. The church steps in when in his absence. The church is called to be a spiritual home for the lonely.

Why does David look to the future in the Psalm? This Psalm sets the stage for difficult days for you. You do not know what tomorrow holds, but you know how it ends. God's victory is complete and decisive. He wins over evil. Knowing this, you can have confidence in God even in your troubled times.

2. Read vs. 7 – 18

In these verses, David covers a lot of Israel's history. He is going to look at the Ark of the Covenant, the dwelling place of God and trace the ark from Sinai to Jerusalem in the Promised Land. As you walk through that history, you see His goodness. He cares and provided for His people. You can trust God because He is good. God protected them and provided for them. How has God protected and guided you throughout your life? Can you recount God's goodness in your life? This Psalm is meant for us! Verse 18 is the climax of this procession. Paul quotes [Psalm 68:18](#) in [Ephesians 4:8](#). This points to Jesus and His ascension. As you

trace Israel's history, you come to Jesus who came to fight a battle for you and lead you out of the captivity of sin through His sinless life, atoning death, and victorious resurrection. This is good news.

Before you join in the celebration depicted in vs. 18, you have to answer one question: Who are the enemies of God? They are those who hate God. Most people wouldn't say that they hated God; they are thinking of a god that they made up in their imagination. The true God is the Sovereign Ruler over all things. Left to your sinful self, you are hostile to that idea of God. We all want to do what we want, when we want. This is sin - rebellion. ([Romans 5:10](#); [Colossians 1:21](#)) Rebellion is our default position; no one is righteous. Christ's victory over sin, rebellion and death, you can become righteous. ([Colossians 2:15](#)) Jesus' victory becomes victory for those in Christ. That is grace. You don't have to be an enemy of God. Turn from your sin and trust in Christ.

3. Read vs. 19 – 35

God will bear you up day after day. (Vs 19) What causes you to be weary and discouraged today? God promises to bear you up and carry you. He will get you all the way to the Promised Land. Think about the things that scare you, discourage you, cause you to worry, the things that bring you regret, shame or guilt, Now stop. It's very easy to go down the rabbit hole of painful things and wallow. You need something better to look at.

Look to the past - remember how God has delivered His people time and again. Because He did it in the past, He will do it in the present - that is Who God is! You can be confident in that.

Now, look to the future - when you look at the future, God wins. When God arises, His enemies are scattered and the vulnerable are rescued.

Today, God gives you a promise - He will bear you up - DAILY. He gives power and strength to the weak and weary. Deliverance from death belong to God's people. If He can deliver from death, He can deliver you from what you are facing today. You can pray, "God arise, let Your enemies be scattered!"

If you are confident in God's care, you will share the evangelistic concern in [verses 28-35](#). You are set free from your small-minded selfishness because you know that you are taken care of by God. It is then that you can look up and care for others and share the gospel with them. Remember, this is a spiritual battle, and the weapons are spiritual - we proclaim the gospel, we pray, and then God expands His kingdom. Who do you know that needs to hear this good news today?

If you are confident in God's care, you will celebrate Christ's victory ([vs. 20-27](#)) When you believe that God wins, you don't have to be afraid. You don't have to take vengeance in your own hands. The proud sinner who doesn't trust God will not get away with their sin even though they may try to hide. You cannot escape God's judgment, and He will make it right. Leave it to God.

Do you believe that God will win? What are you facing today? The trials you face can make it hard for you to believe. Read this psalm at home today. Sing this psalm. Do you wonder why we sing? In one sense, it is a dress rehearsal for heaven. Singing strengthens your faith as you wait for that day when all will before the throne of God and the battle will be over.

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at.

Next week's sermon text: Psalm 150 "Let Everything Praise the Lord"

Family Guide for week of August 31st, 2025

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



Suggestions on getting started:

- Decide on a time & place (breakfast, dinner, before bed, etc.)
- Start simple and short (ten minutes or less). Start with three things: 1) Read God's word, 2) Pray together and 3) Sing together. Scripture memory and catechism questions are *optional* if you have the time. Better to start small than bite off more than you can chew and give up.
- Be flexible. It doesn't need to look cookie-cutter similar for every family. Know yourself and know your kids: their personality, age, maturity, etc. [For younger kids consider starting with a good children's Bible like [The Big Picture Story Bible](#).]
- If you don't know the answer to a question someone has, don't act like you do! Say something like, "Great question, let me look into that." Study, ask a pastor or Christian friend and get back to them.
- Embrace the chaos. Kids are kids – don't expect it to be a perfect roundtable discussion with quiet, attentive children every time. Be patient and persistent. Patterns and habits help to set expectations over time.
- To learn more about family worship check out Donald Whitney's book (available at our church bookstall): [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home](#).

Family Guide for week of August 31st, 2025

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Bible Intake: (Listening to God)

Day 1 – Acts 21:27-36

Day 2 – Acts 21:37-22:1

Day 3 – Acts 22:2-21

Day 4 – Acts 22:22-29

Day 5 – Acts 22:30-23:11

*Read **Psalm 150** preparation for church on Sunday, September 7, 2025

Prayer: (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 24 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Ask God to help you trust Him today. Ask Him to remind you of His promise to be with you and to guide you at all times.

Sing together

"God Shall Arise" – Use the bulletin from Sunday. The song should be posted on our website by tomorrow if you need a "sing-a-long" version.

Memory verses for the month

Proverbs 3:7 *"Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil."*

Colossians 1:15-16a *"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth."*

Catechism question for the week¹

Question 7: What does the law of God require?

Answer: *That we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.*

¹ New City Catechism (<http://newcitycatechism.com/>)