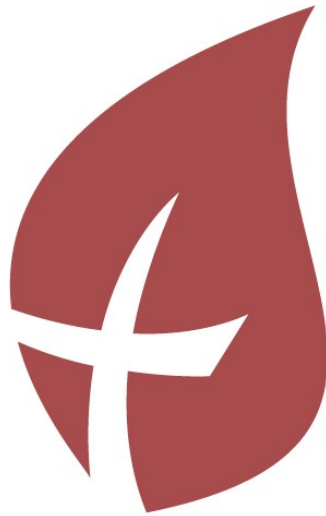


Sunday Morning Worship

September 28, 2025



**FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO**

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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

Order of Worship

September 28, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — Exodus 34:6-8

Song — Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Song — 10,000 Reasons

Scripture Reading — 1 Peter 1:3-9

Pastoral Prayer

Song — Bless the Lord Medley

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel
“Bless the Lord, O My Soul”
Psalm 103

Song — Taste and See (Psalm 34)

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 — Exodus 34:6-8 (ESV)

⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” ⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas Chisholm | William Runyan | John Piper

Verse 1:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O 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 wilt be

Chorus:

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

Verse 2:

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.

Verse 3:

I have no merit to woo or delight Thee,
I have no wisdom or pow'rs to employ;
Yet in thy mercy, how pleasing thou find'st me,
This is Thy pleasure: that Thou art my joy.

Verse 4:

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

10,000 Reasons

Matt Redman | Jonas Myrin

Chorus:

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1:

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Verse 2:

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Verse 3:

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Scripture Reading — 1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Bless the Lord Medley

Andrae Crouch | Esther Watanabe | Jason Brown

Bless the Lord:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

He has done great things,
He has done great things,
He has done great things,
Bless his holy name

I Will Bless Thee, O Lord:

I will bless Thee, O Lord!
I will bless Thee, O Lord!
With a heart of thanksgiving,
I will bless Thee, O Lord!

With my hands lifted up,
And my mouth filled with praise
With a heart of thanksgiving,
I will bless Thee, O Lord!

Sermon Notes

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul” :: Psalm 103

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## Taste and See (Psalm 34)

Jimmy Needham | Shane Barnard | Joseph Rigney

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Verse 1:

I sought the Lord
And He answered me
And delivered me
From every fear
Those who look on Him
Are radiant
They'll never be ashamed
They'll never be ashamed

Verse 2:

This poor man cried
And the Lord heard me
And saved me from
My enemies
The Son of God
Surrounds His saints
He will deliver them
He will deliver them

Chorus:

Magnify the Lord with me
Come exalt His name together
Glorify the Lord with me
Come exalt His name forever

Verse 3:

Oh, taste and see
That the Lord is good
Oh, blessed is he
Who hides in Him
Oh, fear the Lord
Oh, all you saints
He'll give you everything
He'll give you everything

Bridge:

Let us bless the Lord
Every day and night
Neverending praise
May our incense rise

This Week at First Baptist Church

Sunday, September 28

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship
6:00 PM Youth Night

Monday, September 29

Tuesday, September 30

10:30 AM Tuesday Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, October 1

6:30 PM Church Prayer Meeting

Thursday, October 2

Friday, October 3

Saturday, October 4

6:30 AM Bible Boot Camp (Men)
8:30 AM Titus 2 (Women)

Sunday, October 5

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship w/ Lord's Supper

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

Friday, October 10

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

Sunday, October 19

3:00 PM — Children's Harvest Party

October 20 — 28

Mission Team serving at Bangkok City Baptist Church — Thailand

Sunday, November 9

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 September 28

Prayer of the week:

Consider using the Apostle Paul's prayer from the book of Colossians 1:9-10 as a springboard for your own prayer time this week. This is a great prayer to use as you pray through the church directory for your church family this week.

⁹...we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

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 the Mission Team going out from our church to Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand, Oct 20-28; Pastor Zach Schlegel, Jason Brown, Gay Laxton, Erin Messing, Nikki Butler and Kirsten. Pray that our team would be helpful and an encouragement to the local church and pastors they are serving and that the Gospel would flourish through their ministry.
- Pray that good spiritual fruit would come from discipleship efforts in small groups, one to one meetings, and as people show hospitality to others in our church. (1 Pt 4:9; Gal 6:2)
- Pray our church family would not grow weary of doing good. Pray 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.)

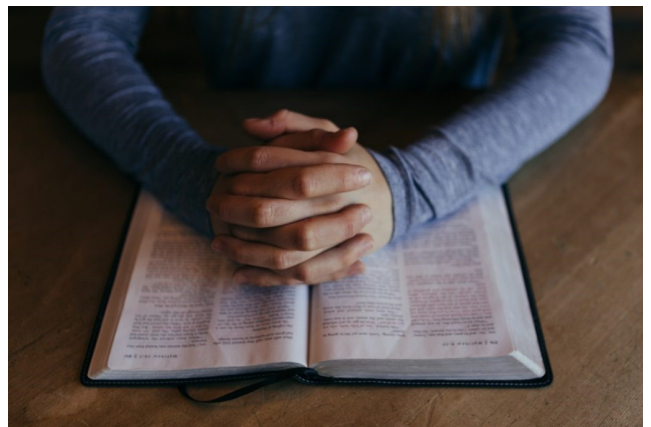
Ministry Spotlight

“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.*

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry is the most important ministry of our Church. Prayer is a command from the Lord to pray for one another and it is a great privilege to do so. It is a precious gift from God. Have you noticed the door to the Prayer Room and wondered why the door is always locked? Did you know that there is a sign beside the door that allows you to know when it is vacant or occupied? Have you seen the ‘Prayer Request’ card that is located in the back of chairs in the worship center? Did you know that there is a direct line to the Prayer Room that you may use to submit a prayer request that will be kept confidential? Did you know that prayer requests can be submitted online through the email ‘Pray4mefbc@gmail.com?’ Did you know the Prayer Room has a direct line 301-952-8877 for leaving messages for prayer requests or giving an update about a previously submitted prayer request?

The Prayer Room is a place where only members of the Prayer Ministry enter to spend time in prayer for those having submitted prayer requests. They also pray for members listed in the Church Member Directory, the names listed in the bulletin each Sunday, NAMB (No. American Mission Board), and Prayer Points (a publication available through the International Mission Board (IMB) which brings information about unreached people and the missionaries around the world that are sharing the gospel. They also pray for this church (other churches), communities, church leadership and for the gospel to go to the ends of the earth.



Ministry Spotlight

It may seem simple but it is anything but simple. Being a member of the Prayer Ministry humbles and provides an opportunity to recognize how many and massive are some of the prayer needs. When members come in to pray, they may be overwhelmed by the requests and at the same time become humbled that God delights in hearing their prayers. Sometimes they may not know what to pray and that requires leaning in for God's guidance as you pray for others, *intercessory prayer*. Praying that God's will be done. Time spent in the Prayer Room is sacred and should be honored as being a time dedicated before holy God. Members are to put everything else on the back burner and focus on the purpose of praying. That is why there is a sign next to the door to prevent interruptions when members are praying to the Lord.



Praying is hard work which requires concentration, persistence and faithfulness, however, the rewards of this investment are priceless. From time to time, members will contact those that have submitted prayer requests (who have agreed to be contacted) for follow-up calls to learn whether there has been any improvement in the situation/person

presented for prayer. During these calls something amazing happens, the person making the prayer request learns that the prayers are still being lifted up on their behalf which is very encouraging. The member learns that things may have improved or the best result ever, that the prayer request has been completely answered by the Lord. This so very encouraging when the member writes, answered prayers on the card and moves it to the 'Answered Prayer' file. That is the time to rejoice when a prayer request makes it to the answered prayer file. A prayer of thanksgiving is certainly in order!

Next week additional details will be shared regarding the Prayer Ministry and the duties of the members. If you are interested in joining this ministry or learning more, please contact Bernice McGuire.

Announcements

1. **Church Prayer Meeting and Fellowship Meal— THIS Wednesday, Oct 1.** Join us for 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, Oct 5.** 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. **Women's Dessert and Worship Fellowship—Friday, October 10 at 6:30pm.** Ladies, mark your calendar! Join us for a Women's Dessert & Worship Fellowship on Friday, October 10th from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Bring your favorite dessert to share and plan on enjoying fellowship and a time of worship through music/songs. Invite your friends & neighbors! Have your dessert cut and ready to serve.

4. **Children's Ministry Harvest Party (K-6th and their families) — October 19, 3-5pm.** Children grades K-6th and their families are invited to a Harvest Party at the church. There will be games, S'mores, races, pumpkin patch, pumpkin decorating, and more! Bring a friend! Rain date 10/26.

5. **Interested in Church Membership? Attend Starting Point :: November 9 after worship.**

Starting Point is a seminar-style meeting following the worship service open to anyone interested in joining our church family or simply learning more about who we are and what we believe. Approximately 12-2:30pm. A light lunch will be served. Register by contacting the church office or using the digital communication card below.

6. **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 103 — Bless the Lord, O My Soul

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For 2 or 3 days this week, set aside 15 minutes to pray through Psalm 103. For help on how to pray the Psalms, refer back to the bulletin insert from July 6 “Singing and Praying the Psalms Guide”.

**Psalm 103. BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL.** <sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! <sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, <sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. <sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. <sup>8</sup> The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. <sup>9</sup> He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. <sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. <sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. <sup>14</sup> For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

<sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; <sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. <sup>17</sup> But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, <sup>18</sup> to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. <sup>19</sup> The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

<sup>20</sup> Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! <sup>21</sup> Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! <sup>22</sup> Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**Praising God:** To ‘bless the LORD’ is to extol, praise, or recognize the value and beauty of God. As you read through Psalm 103 take careful note of who God is and what He has done. Does seeing these truths stir your heart to bless the LORD? If so, bless Him!

**Confessing Sin:** Are there ways that you’ve taken for granted the benefits of the LORD and perhaps presumed on His grace or felt entitled to the good He gives? Ingratitude can ruin our joy and be a seed bed for bitterness, anger, envy, and other sin. If you see ingratitude in your heart, expressed in grumbling, envy, or sinful anger, confess it to the Lord.

**Following God:** Two things we’re commanded to do in Psalm 103 is ‘forget not all His benefits’ (v2) and ‘bless the LORD’ (v1, 2, 20, 21, and 22). What might it look like for you to do those two things right now?

## Things to Pray for First Baptist Church:

- 1. Pray that God strengthens and spreads a culture of gratitude in us.
- 2. Pray we rest in the truth that God is sovereign and in control – He ‘has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all’ (v19).

# Singing Psalm 103 — “Bless the Lord Medley”

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Having prayed through Psalm 103, now take the time to sing a medley that was inspired by the truths of the psalm titled. A recording can be found on today’s sermon notes page on the church website (fbcum.org). Lyrics can be found in today’s bulletin, Sept 28.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of UPPER MARLBORO

Women's DESSERT + WORSHIP Fellowship

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

6:30 - 8:30pm

*Join us for sweet treats,
fellowship, and worship
through song.*

*Bring a dessert to share —
cut and ready to serve.*



7415 CRAIN HIGHWAY

FBCUM.ORG

FBC Children's Ministry invites you to a:

Harvest Party

Sunday, October 19, 2024 from 3 - 5 pm
for grades K-6 and their family, at the church.

(Rain Date Sunday, October 26)

Games—S'mores—Races—
Pumpkin Decorating —Pumpkin Patch

Bring a Friend!!

Singing and Praying the Psalms

[Psalm 103](#)

"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"—September 28, 2025



Introduction

As you look at this Psalm, notice that it begins and ends the same way - "Bless the Lord, O my soul." The aim is that when you leave this place today, that you bless the Lord. Does that seem strange to you? Why would He call His people to bless Him? Think of it this way... Someone gives you a gift and you offer some back to them. We give back a portion of what God has given in joyful gratitude.

The psalmist starts out by preaching to himself, shaking off his apathy and gloom. He uses his mind and memory to kindle his emotions. He was slow and reluctant to praise the Lord for some reason. Does praising God and giving Him thanks ever feel like a chore to you? Is your heart ever sleepy or sluggish to give God praise? We often forget the benefits of God. ([Vs. 2](#)) This kind of forgetfulness is not absent-minded forgetfulness. It is a willful forgetting or ignoring of His benefits which leaves us feeling ungrateful or even entitled.

There are many reasons we can begin to feel this way - trials, pride, etc. Even prosperity can make us forget. Moses warned the Israelites about being forgetful. ([Deuteronomy 4:9](#)) Yet it did happen to the Israelites, and it can happen to you as well. Do you see God's kindness as something you deserve? When bad things come your way, do you grumble and ask "why?" This leads to pride and ungratefulness, and life turns miserable. How do you get out of this misery of being ungrateful? How do we cultivate joy and gratitude that we bless the Lord regardless of circumstances.

Sermon Outline

1. Rehearse your "then" and your "now." Vs. 1-5
2. Rehearse what God has done. Vs. 6-18
3. Recall the sovereignty of God. Vs. 19-22

Read & Discuss

1. Read Vs. 1 – 5

Rehearsing your "then" before you knew Christ and your "now" that has been changed by knowing Jesus has a way of stirring up our hearts. Take a moment to look at the opposite of you see in [verses 3-5](#) before God changed your life. This is your "then." You were enslaved to sin, stuck in a pit, a nobody who was weak. Who are you now because of the coming to Christ? You are forgiven. In the midst of the shame over the memory of past sins, you must remember that you are not the same person that you were.

Another benefit is that He is a God who heals all of your diseases. If you have been sick and recovered, God is the one who heals. Have you given thanks to God or do you credit your healing to a good immune system or medication? What if you are still sick? God can heal in this life, but sometimes, God in His wisdom, chooses to heal later. If you are a Christian, all of your diseases will be healed one day. When Jesus returns you will have a glorified body, and He will wipe away all tears.

God redeems your life from the pit. Someone has paid the price to lift you up out of the muck and mire of sin and set you free! That's not the end though. God crowns you with steadfast love and mercy! You are adopted as a child of God; the King is your Father! Nothing in this world will satisfy your soul except the Living Water. You and I are made for God. He renews your strength. ([Isaiah 41:31](#)) Does your heart feel slow, sleeping, sluggish, and disinterested in praising the Lord? Have you lost sight of or ignored God's benefits? Rehearse your "then" before Christ and your "now" in Christ. Take these truths and put them in your heart until your heart is changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask someone to share their testimony with you to stir your soul to bless the Lord.

2. Read Vs. 6-18

Do you remember the Exodus? God saw the oppression of the Israelites in slavery in Egypt. He heard their cries, and He delivered His people. That was a reason for them to bless the Lord. But, no sooner had they been delivered, they set up a golden calf - an idol - to worship it. ([Exodus 32](#)) God had every right to wipe

out this rebellious, ungrateful people. Moses interceded for them. He asked God to show him His ways, and He did. ([vs. 7](#)) God forgave them. ([vs. 8](#); [Exodus 34: 6-7](#)) How would you respond in a similar situation? God is not like us. He is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Have you ever quarreled with someone and stood your ground waiting for the other person to apologize? Pride will nurse a grievance. God is different. He is good, holy, righteous and just. Our sin **does** grieve God, but look at [vs. 9](#). He does not deal with us according to our sin. His steadfast love is greater! [Verse 11](#) is the central idea of this psalm- God's covenantal, unfailing, steadfast love.

How do **you** define love? How does God define love? How does the Bible define love? When we look at the world's definition of love, we see something very different. The world thinks of love in terms of what can be gained instead of given. God never compromises what is right or lays aside His righteousness or justice in order to show love. What does He do with your sin or my sin? God does not sweep sin under the carpet. God's love and compassion fall on those who fear Him. God's love falls on those who keep His covenant and obey His commandments. Have you obeyed all of God's commands without fail? No, we are all guilty. How can you claim God's steadfast love? This psalm points forward to a better King who will keep all of God's commands and Who will shed His blood to atone for sin and satisfy God's wrath and uphold justice. We can claim God's steadfast love because of Jesus! ([Isaiah 53](#)) And because He rose from the dead, He can offer forgiveness and salvation to those who trust Him. In Jesus, the love of God is on breathtaking display. Do you have a lot of sin? Have you trusted in Christ? God's love is greater than your sin! Come to Jesus. Know His forgiveness and reconciliation.

There will be justice and righteousness for all. ([vs. 6](#)) Is there injustice in the world? YES. Sometimes the guilty go free and the oppressed don't receive justice. Remember, your life is brief. You are but a blip on the screen of eternity. The world rejects God and wants you to pursue wealth, fame, beauty, or power to leave a mark, because it all ends when you die. The truth is that life is a vapor. Death is the great equalizer. The world doesn't want you to see that. **Death is not the end** - the sick will be healed, and the oppressed will have justice. ([Romans 12:9](#)) The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. His children will be raised and brought into glory. Every wrong will be made right. You will outlast every one of your trials. ([Romans 8:31-39](#)) Seek God and His righteousness. ([Matthew 6:33](#); [16:24-26](#))

3. Read Vs. 19-22

David calls all of creation to bless the Lord. Notice the repetition of God's sovereignty. His throne is established. He rules over **all** - all people, events, nations, time, and places. If God is not sovereign, then the winds of evil men and women, injustice, disease, sickness, grief and death will have the final word in your life. But God **is** sovereign. He is a compassionate Father who is, just, kind, good, and forgiving.

How do we respond to a God who rules over all like this? You bless the Lord. You praise Him with joyful gratitude! This psalm is written to awaken an ungrateful heart and invites all to bless the Lord. Will you join the chorus or will you sit in your miserable ingratitude?

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: Luke 1:1-4 "Certainty About the Good News"

Family Guide for week of September 28th, 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](#).

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Bible Intake: (Listening to God)

Day 1 – Acts 28:17-31

Day 2 – Ephesians 1

Day 3 – Ephesians 2

Day 4 – Ephesians 3

Day 5 – Ephesians 4

*Read **Luke 1:1-4** preparation for church on Sunday, October 5, 2025

Prayer: (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 28 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Ask God for guidance as you prepare for the day. Ask Him to help you trust and obey His Word as you interact with people and make decisions today.

Praise Jesus for being the Good Shepherd.

Sing together

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

Memory verses for the month

1 Kings 8:60 *"that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other."*

Colossians 1:16b-17 *"all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*

Catechism question for the week¹

Question 11: What does God require in the sixth, seventh, & eighth commandments?

Answer: *Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate our neighbor. Seventh, that we live purely and faithfully. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else.*

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