

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Second Service

Christus Victor (Amen)

O Most High, King of the ages,
Great I AM, God of wonders;
by the blood You have redeemed us,
led us through mighty waters.
Our strength, our song, our sure
salvation:

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
for the battle You have won
Hallelujah! Amen.

O Most High, dwelling among us;
Son of man, sent for sinners.
By Your blood You have redeemed us;
spotless Lamb, mighty Savior
who lived, who died, who rose
victorious:

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
for the battle You have won
Hallelujah!

With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen.

With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels

in the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen.

O Most High, King of the nations;
robed in praise,
crowned with splendor.
On that day, who will not tremble?
When You stand, Christ the Victor
who was, and is and is forever:

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
for the battle You have won
Hallelujah!

With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
for the battle You Now to the Lamb
upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
for the battle You have won
Hallelujah!

With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen.
Sing the victory of the Lamb!
Hallelujah! Amen.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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.

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.

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;
Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same;
And He must win the battle.

And though 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.

That word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through 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.

Text: Martin Luther; based on Psalm 46 Music: Martin Luther

Confession of Sin

Congregation:

Holy, holy, holy God,
Almighty and most gracious Father,

We confess that we have not
trembled at your presence,
but instead presumed upon your
grace.

We confess that we have not
marveled at your goodness,
but instead have taken for granted
your nearness.

We confess
that we have not despised our sin
and the damage it causes,
but instead
casually assumed the privileges
of the Son of God

as if we deserved them.

We fall down before you asking that
you forgive us for making a mockery
of your holiness.

We plead your mercy
in the name of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Catechism (1646)
Question and Answer 2 & 3

Leader

What rule hath God given to direct us
how we may glorify and enjoy him?

Congregation

The Word of God,
which is contained in the Scriptures
of the Old and New Testaments,
is the only rule to direct us
how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Leader

What do the Scriptures
principally teach?

Congregation

The Scriptures principally teach,
what man is to believe
concerning God,
and what duty God requires of man.

O Church of Christ Invincible

O Church of Christ, invincible,
The people of the Lord;
Empowered by the Spirit's breath,
And nourished by His word.

His covenant of grace will be
Our portion evermore;
For He who called us will not change,
Our help and our reward.

O chosen people called by grace,
The sons of Abraham,
Who walk by faith in things unseen
And on His promise stand,

That ev'ry nation of the earth
Will hear of boundless love
That causes broken hearts to heal
And pays our debts with blood.

O Church of Christ in sorrow now,
Where evil lies in wait,
When trials and persecutions come
This light will never fade.

For though the hordes
of hell may rage,
Their pow'r will not endure;
Our times are in the Father's hand,
Our anchor is secure.

O Church of Christ upon that day,
When all are gathered in,

When ev'ry tear is wiped away
With ev'ry trace of sin;
Where justice, truth and beauty shine,
And death has passed away;
Where God and man will dwell as one
For all eternity!

Matt Boswell, Stuart Townend. Arr. Brad Henderson
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Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor

Christ the sure and steady anchor,
In the fury of the storm;
When the winds of doubt blow
through me
And my sails have all been torn.

In the suffering in the sorrow,
When my sinking hopes are few;
I will hold fast to the anchor,
It shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor,
While the tempest rages on;
When temptation claims the battle,
And it seems the night has won.

Deeper still then goes the anchor,
Though I justly stand accused;
I will hold fast to the anchor,
It shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor,
Through the floods of unbelief;
Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now,

Lift your eyes to Calvary.

This my ballast of assurance,
See His love forever proved.
I will hold fast to the anchor,
It shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor,
As we face the wave of death;
When these trials give way to glory,
As we draw our final breath.

We will cross that great horizon,
Clouds behind and life secure;
And the calm will be the better,
For the storms that we endure.

We will cross that great horizon,
Clouds behind and life secure;
And the calm will be the better,
For the storms that we endure.

Christ the shore of our salvation,
Ever faithful, ever true!
We will hold fast to the anchor,
It shall never be removed.

Matt Boswell and Matt Papa © 2014 Messenger Hymns, Love Your Enemies
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The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
for Thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Flee From Sin/Run to Jesus

There is grace
for the daily war with sin
For the battles
that rage within my heart
I am held
in my Father's everlasting arms
He's my shield
from the devil's fiery darts.

There's a refuge
from every lustful thought
From old habits enticing me away
When I fear
my addictions won't be overcome
There is hope
through Christ's resurrection day

There is power
in the finished work of Jesus
To change helpless sinners just like me
There's contentment
when nothing else can satisfy
So I'll flee from my sin
to Christ the Lord
Put my faith
in the promise of His word

God has called all His children to obey,
Live a life of submission to His word
May I learn what it means
to seek His Kingdom first,
Die to self,
give my all to serve the Lord.

There is power
in the finished work of Jesus
To change helpless sinners just like me
There's contentment
when nothing else can satisfy
So I'll flee
from my sin to Christ the Lord
Put my faith
in the promise of His word

There's forgiveness
for every time I fail
As I turn in repentance from my sin
God provides
all the help I need to persevere
Praise His name!
That my life is found in Him!

There is power
in the finished work of Jesus
To change helpless sinners just like me
There's contentment
when nothing else can satisfy

So I'll flee from my sin
to Christ the Lord
Put my faith in the
promise of His word

Words and Music by Sol Fenne, 20schemes Music CCLI #353794

Part 5 – Recognizing False Teachers

2 Peter 2:10-16

Peter dedicates a large portion of his letter warning the church that, just like false prophets in the past, false teachers have arisen within the church (2:1-3). He has announced their current and final judgment (2:3-9). He reveals that they are driven by “the lust of defiling passion” and they “despise authority” and that their hearts are “bold and willful” (vs. 10).

“This is precisely why such a large part of the Bible is devoted to exposing the subtleties of false prophets and teachers – their power lies in their appeal. So, a vital element in Christian maturity is the ability to see beyond outward appearances and recognize the difference between what is true and what is false.”¹ Though Peter’s criticism of the false teachers is harsh, he is not being gratuitous or angrily self-indulgent. Rather, the apostle is demonstrating proper indignation over those who lead God’s people astray.

1. You will recognize them by their false teaching.

- Let us not miss the obvious. The first way to recognize false teachers is that they teach error. Specifically, they teach “destructive heresies” (2:1). And the ability to recognize this trait rests upon our knowledge of God’s Word and sound doctrine. Three times in verses 10-13 Peter uses the word “blaspheme” to describe the works of the false teachers. The most consequential problem with heresy is that it attacks the glory of God. When it comes to false teachers it is not a matter of picking the bones out of the meat. The problem with false teachers is that they introduce poison into the well.
- Like a good pastor, Peter’s aim is to prepare his hearers to stand on the Day of Judgment. In contrast, the false teachers seek only to “entice unsteady

¹ Mark Johnson, *Let’s Study 2 Peter & Jude* (Banner of Truth: Edinburgh, 2005) p. 43

souls” (vs. 14). The word “unsteady” in verse 14 is the antithesis of the aim of a faithful pastor/teacher whose goal is to give God’s people a firm foundation. Paul sought to build up the Ephesian church so that they would not be “tossed about by every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14).

- One of the reasons false teachers are able to find their way into the church is because they mix in enough truth and Christian language that the less discerning are easily fooled. False teachers gain influence in part by incorporating doses of truth into their errors. To many, they will sound “Christian.” They are skilled in presenting false dichotomies and half-truths. But a half-truth masquerading as a whole-truth is a whole error.

2. You will recognize them by their stubborn arrogance.

- **Vs. 10b** – “Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones...” – The words translated “bold” and “willful” are essentially synonymous. “They function together to draw a picture of ‘arrogant audacity’...[Their] arrogance is manifested in their not being afraid to ‘slander celestial beings.’”²
- Exactly who “the glorious ones” are has long been subject of debate. Some have suggested that they are the apostles and/or pastors of the churches, assuming the term translated “glorious ones” (lit. *glories*) is simply a title of honor for the church’s leaders. But it seems best to take this as a reference to angels. Many scholars hold that Peter is referring to fallen angels. That may sound strange to our ears given the way that we hear the term “glorious.” But the word Peter uses (*glories*) is probably best taken as a general reference to spiritual (or, *celestial*) beings. Indeed, the term is never used to refer specifically to the holy angels. And given the close connection between 2 Peter and Jude, there is a strong argument to be made in favor of the view that Peter is referring to fallen angels (demons).³
- Peter and Jude seem to both be drawing upon a particular Hebrew tradition in which the archangel Michael and Satan disputed over possession of Moses’ body:

“But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, *he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you”* (Jude 9).

² Douglas Moo, *2 Peter, Jude*, NAC (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996) p. 121

³ See Douglas Moo, Thomas Schreiner, Richard Baukham

- **Verse 11** – “Whereas angels....” – Notice how Peter seems to be contrasting “the glorious ones” reviled by false teachers with the holy “angels” here.⁴ The “blasphemous judgment” pronounced by the false teachers is either their denial of demons which could fit, given that they are denying the return of Jesus and the future judgment. Or, it could mean that they possess an arrogant audacity toward Satan and demons having been puffed up by their own spiritual pride. Not even the holy angels boast about themselves though they possess great power. Many false teachers today present themselves as swaggering prize fighters gloating in their supposed power over demons.

3. You will recognize them by their ungodliness.

As he did in verses 1-10a Peter continues to identify sexual immorality and greed as the chief sins of the false teachers.

Immorality

- **Vs. 12** – Peter compares their immoral behavior to the instinctual behavior of animals. They act on base desires rather than reason. They “blaspheme about matters of which they are ignorant.” The New Testament never presents ignorance as morally neutral. Ignorance of righteousness is always, in one way or another, willful (Romans 1&2). There is irony in the fact that these false teachers who deny a coming judgment “will also be destroyed in their destruction.”
- **Vs. 13** – “Suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing...” – The false teachers will not ultimately take pleasure in the wages of their wrongdoing. As their degrading passions go from bad to worse, they begin practicing their sin in broad daylight. Sadly, the church has welcomed these false teachers into their fellowship even though they are blemishes upon the church’s witness.
- **Vs. 14a-c** – The word translated “entice” has the same root as the word for hunting. False teachers seek out, or hunt for “unsteady souls.” They bait the ignorant and unsteady with false doctrine and false promises that will fit their misguided desires. We need not be shocked at the world-wide popularity of the prosperity false teachers. Such heresies are enticing bait.

Greed

⁴ Thomas Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, TNAC (Nashville, B&H, 2003) pp. 347ff

- **Vs. 14d** – “They have hearts trained for greed.” – Greed is often the fruit of training. Like sexual lust, the lust for material goods often comes about by a practiced gaze. It is the fruit of the lasting look. Like most greedy people, the false teachers are greedy because they’ve trained themselves to be. They have chosen to look longingly at the world’s prizes and it has produced in them a covetous heart. In contrast to this, we are meant to set our hearts on things above and to treasure what cannot decay.
- **Vv. 15-16** – Having known the right way, they have deliberately chosen the wrong. This makes them doubly accountable to the Lord’s justice.
- Peter appeals to Balaam as an example of the same sorts of greed that the false teachers are guilty of. Balaam once sold his services to pagan king of Moab in an attempt to curse the people of Israel and keep them from occupying the land (Numbers 22). As one commentator observes: “Balaam, perhaps more than any other preacher in Israel’s history, set his voice, his eyes, and his heart on God-forsaken ways...He was the leading voice that led the sexual revolution forward during the days when Moses shepherded the people upon the plains (Numbers 31:16).”⁵

What makes the church vulnerable to false teachers:

- 1) Ignorance or indifference to doctrine.
 - Doctrinal indifferentism always opens the door for false teaching.
- 2) Emphasizing utilitarianism over truth.
 - “Does it work for me,” versus, “Is this true?”
- 3) Misguided notions of what is “practical.”
 - Doctrinal instruction is viewed as impractical and so it is discarded.
- 4) Niceness over love.
 - When notions of niceness overtake the harder work of love, truth telling is neglected.

⁵ David Helm, *1&2 Peter & Jude*, PTW (Wheaton: Crossway, 2008) p. 235

This is My Father's World

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears;
All nature sings and round me rings
The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world;
The birds their carols raise.
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise;

This is my Father's world;
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world;
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong
seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world;
The battle is not done;
Jesus, who died, shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav'n be one.

This is my Father's world;
The battle is not done;
Jesus, who died, shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav'n be one.

Words by Maltbie Babcock. Music by Franklin Sheppard

Doxology

Praise God from Whom
all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below:
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

*Text: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; attributed to Louis
Bourgeois; Public Domain*