

Worship Resources for Sunday, January 24, 2021

As you gather for worship, talk about: In what ways has God been challenging you this week?

Welcome and Call to Worship – *Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22*

LW: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

ALL: Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

LW: Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

ALL: Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

LW: Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

ALL: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Song – “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

God’s Greeting

Song – “O Come to the Altar”

Confession and Commitment – *Jonah 3:8-9; John 3:14-18a*

⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

Prayer

(John 3) 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned,

Song – “The Stand”

Morning Prayer

Kid’s Time

Scripture – *Esther 4:1-17*

¹ When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. ² But he went only as far as the king’s gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. ³ In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

⁴ When Esther’s eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. ⁵ Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king’s eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

⁶ So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate. ⁷ Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king’s presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

⁹ Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”

¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

Message - "God in the Shadows"

Some questions to think and talk about:

What surprised you or challenged you in this story?

Has God ever seemed silent to you? When were those times? What did you do?

In what ways can we celebrate God's redemption in Jesus more?

Song – "Mercy's Tree" (Sung by the Worship Team)

Confessing our Faith: Apostles' Creed

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

God's Blessing

Song – "Doxology (God Be Praised)"

~Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors~

Readings in *The Story* for this coming week: Section 20 – The Queen of Beauty and Courage pp. 274-290