

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
September 4, 2022 – 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Psalm 145:8-13*

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,

to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

God's Greeting

How Great is Our God

The splendor of the King, and clothed in majesty;

Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.

He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,

And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

Refrain: How great is our God! Sing with me: How Great is our God!

All will see how great, how great is our God!

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;

Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.

The God-head, three in one, and Father, Spirit, Son,

The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. *Refrain*

("How Great is Our God/How Great Thou Art" words and music by Ed Cash, Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves © 2004 Alltop Music/Worship toget.com Songs © 1953 S.K. Hine. Assigned to Manna Music, Inc. Renewed 1981, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Great is the Lord

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just; by His power we trust in His love.

Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true; by His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory! Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise!

Great is the Lord! Now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Great are You, Lord, and worthy of glory! Great are You, Lord, and worthy of praise!

Great are You, Lord! I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice: Great are You, Lord! Great are You, Lord!

("Great is the Lord" words and music by Michael & Deborah Smith © 1982 Meadowgreen Music Co. CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

His Mercy Is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?

Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum.

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,

Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.

His blood was the payment His life was the cost.

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, His mercy is more. Stronger than darkness, new every morn.

Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more. *Repeat*

("His Mercy is More" words and music by Matt Papp and Matt Boswell. © 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Song Getty Music Publishing/ Love Your Enemies Publishing/ Messenger Hymns, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession: *John 3:19-21*

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *Colossians 1:21-23*

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven.

Knowing You

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own;
All I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now compared to this.

Refrain: Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're my rest, You're my joy, my righteousness, and I love You Lord.

Oh to know the power of Your risen life, and to know You in Your sufferings;
To become like You in Your death, my Lord, so with You to live and never die. *Refrain*

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Offertory Prayer & Offering: Christian School Tuition Assistance

Morning Prayer

Your Word is Everlasting Truth

Your Word is everlasting truth. How pure is every page!
That holy book shall guide my youth and well support my age.
It's like the sun, a heavenly light that guides us all the day,
And through the dangers of the night a lamp to lead the way.

When nature sinks and spirits droop, Your promises of grace
Are pillars that support my hope and keep me in Your ways.
Now I am Yours, forever Yours. O save your servant, Lord!
You are my shield, my hiding place. My hope is in Your Word.

©"Your Word is Everlasting Truth", words Isaac Watts, 1806, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Scripture: Acts 25:1-12 (ESV)

¹ Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. ² And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him, ³ asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way.

⁴ Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly. ⁵ "So," said he, "let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him."

⁶ After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. ⁷ When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove. ⁸ Paul argued in his defense, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense." ⁹ But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?" ¹⁰ But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. ¹¹ If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar." ¹² Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, "To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: Paul Before Festus

God, the Father of Your People

God, the Father of your people, You have called us to be one;
Grant us grace to walk together in the joy of Christ, your Son.
Challenged by your Word and Spirit, blest with gifts from heaven above,
As one body we will serve you and bear witness to your love.

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God's Blessing

God, the Father of Your People

May the grace of Christ, our Savior. And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor, rest upon us from above.
May we now remain in union with each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion, joys that earth cannot afford.

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Pastors: Mike B, Robert W

Prayer: Bryan A, Neil M

Music: Nancy Z

Offering will be received for Christian School Tuition Assistance. Christian School Assistance is used to help cover tuition cost of First church families who send their children to Christian schools.

Nursery is available with a paging system for children under 3 years during worship service in the Education Building.

Children's Church is available for children 3 years – 3rd grade. Children are dismissed to the Education Building during the service.

Worship services are also broadcast live in the church basement and streamed online for anyone unable to worship in the sanctuary.

An assistive listening system is available in the sanctuary; to use this system, switch hearing aids to "T".

*First Christian Reformed Church 1010 Front St. Lynden, WA 98264
360.354.4560 info@firstcrclinden.org www.firstcrclinden.org*