

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
October 20, 2024 ~ 6:00 PM Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Isaiah 25:9,1*

*“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”
O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.*

Opening Prayer

Be Exalted, O God

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the people.
I will sing praises to Thee among the nations.
For Thy steadfast love is great, is great to the heavens;
And Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Thy glory be over all the earth.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Thy glory be over all the earth.

(“Be Exalted, O God” words and music by Brent Chambers © 1977 Scripture in Song CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows!

(“Praise My Sou, the King of Heaven” Henry Francis Lyte; John Goss © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace; nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness; nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(“Nothing But the Blood” words and music by Robert Lowery. © Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Profession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 27

What do you understand by the providence of God?
**Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God
by which he upholds, as with his hand,
heaven and earth and all creatures,
and so rules them that
leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years,
food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty
all things, in fact, come to us not by chance
but from his fatherly hand.**

Offering: Building the Future Fund

Evening Prayer

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You, to receive the food of Your holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today, in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes, in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see, Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built, and the earth is filled with Your glory.

("Speak, O Lord" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend, © 2005 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: Ezra 1:1-4

¹ *In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing:*

² *"Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. ³ Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem. ⁴ And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts, besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."*

Ezra 7:1a, 6, 9-10

^{1a} *Now after this, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia,*

⁶ *Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the Lord, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him.*

⁹ *For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰ For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.*

Ezra 9:1a, 4-6; 10-12

^{1a} *After these things had been done, the officials approached me and said, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations.*

⁴ *Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the faithlessness of the returned exiles, gathered around me while I sat appalled until the evening sacrifice. ⁵ And at the evening sacrifice I rose from my fasting, with my garment and my cloak torn, and fell upon my knees and spread out my hands to the Lord my God, ⁶ saying:*

"O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.

¹⁰ *"And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments, ¹¹ which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, "The land that you are entering, to take possession of it, is a land impure with the impurity of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations that have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness.*

¹² *Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.'*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: A Walk Through the Bible – Ezra

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

God is our refuge and our strength, our ever-present aid,
And therefore, though the earth be moved, we will not be afraid.
Though hills into the seas be cast, though foaming waters roar,
Though all the mighty billows shake the mountains on the shore.

A river flows whose streams make glad the city of our God,
The holy place wherein the LORD most High has his abode.
Since God is in the midst of her, unmoved her walls shall stand;
For God will hasten to her aid when trouble is at hand.

("God is Our Refuge" text Psalm 46; tune Arthur S Sullivan © Public Domain CCLI#358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

"Be still and know that I am God, the LORD whom all must claim;
And every nation of the earth shall magnify my name."
The LORD of hosts is on our side, our safety is secure;
The God of Jacob is for us a refuge strong and sure.

"God is Our Refuge" text Psalm 46; tune Arthur S. Sullivan © Public Domain CLJ#358926 Streaming License #20317932

Pastors: Zac H, Robert W

Music: Lisa Q

Offering will be received for Building the Future, a fund in place for future building projects of our church. For more information, talk to any member of Phase III Team.

Worship services are also broadcast live in the 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*