

Worshiping Christ Jesus, Who Can Not Be Outmaneuvered!

MAY 9, 2021
10:30 AM

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in A Minor*
Fugue in G Minor (Little)
Fugue a la Gigue in G Major J. S. Bach

Dennis Bergin, organ

WELCOME

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP *Come Let Us Bow Down*
Sing! Jr.; Carrie Smith, piano

Come let us bow down in worship
Come let us bow down in worship
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker
For He is our God

Come let us bow down in worship
Come let us bow down in worship
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker
For He is our God

We are the people of His pasture
We are the flock under His care

Come let us bow down in worship
Come let us bow down in worship
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker
For He is our God

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***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** Psalm 27:1-6

Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Pastor: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

People: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

Pastor: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

People: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

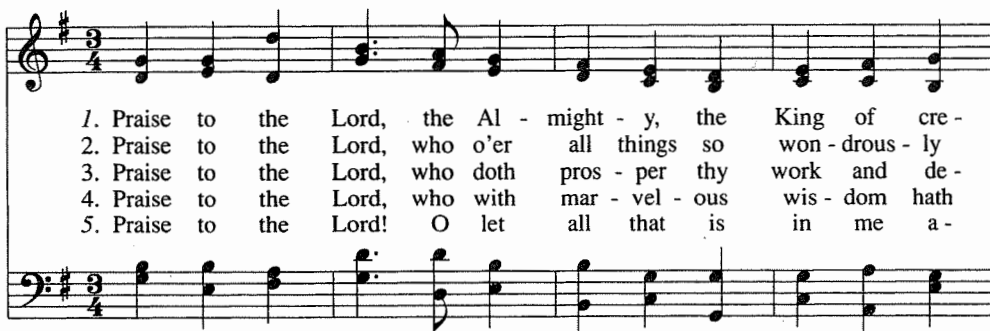
Pastor: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

All: I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

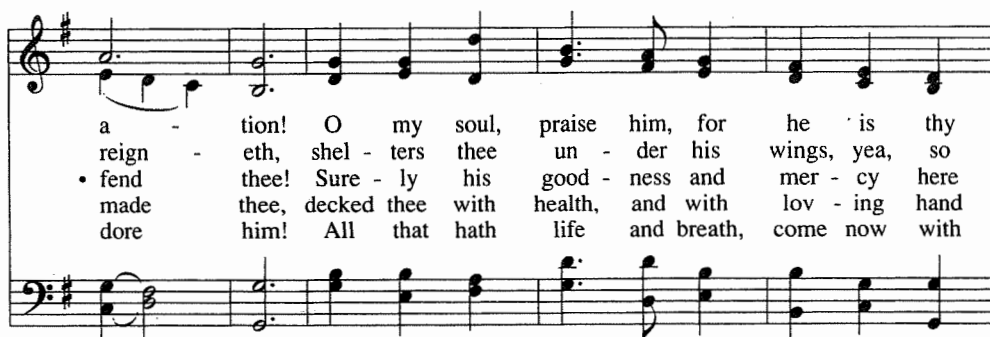
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Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

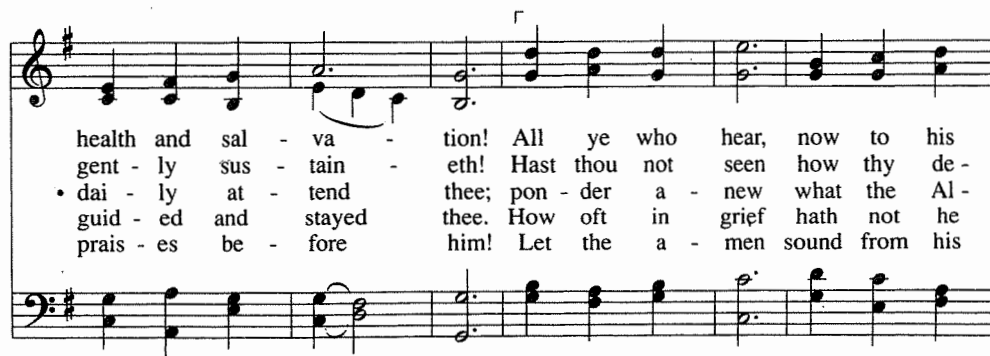
Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Ps. 103:1, 2



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de -
 4. Praise to the Lord, who with mar - vel - ous wis - dom hath
 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 • fend thee! Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here
 made thee, decked thee with health, and with lov - ing hand
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gent - ly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 • dai - ly at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 guid - ed and stayed thee. How oft in grief hath not he
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near, join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
• might - y will do, if with his love he be - friend thee.
brought thee re - lief, spread - ing his wings to o'er - shade thee!
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for - e'er we a - dore him.

Based on Psalm 103
Joachim Neander, 1680
Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt. 1990

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665
Arr. in *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, 1668

*WE INVOKE HIS PRESENCE

GOD EXPOSES OUR NEED Job 40:9-14

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John

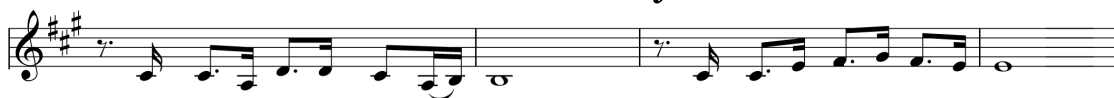
Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his? “Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor. Pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him. Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low and tread down the wicked where they stand. Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below. Then will I also acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you.

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

CHRIST PROVIDES FOR OUR NEED Job 42:1-2

Then Job answered the LORD and said: “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”

The Lord Is My Salvation



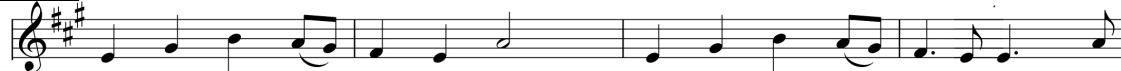
[1. The grace of God has reached for_ me,
[2. I will not fear when dark-ness falls,
[3. My hope is hid-den in the_ Lord,
[4. In times of wait-ing, times of_ need,
5. And when I reach my fi-nal_ day,

And pulled me from the rag-ing sea.
His strength will help me scale these walls.
He flow'rs each pro-mise of His Word.
When I know loss, when I am weak.
He will not leave me in the grave.



[And I am safe on this sol-id ground: The Lord is my sal-va-tion.
[I'll see the dawn of the ris-ing sun: The Lord is my sal-va-tion. **(Chorus)**
[When win-ter fades, I know spring will come: The Lord is my sal-va-tion.
[I know His grace will re-new these days: The Lord is my sal-va-tion. **(Chorus)**
But I will rise, He will call me home: The Lord is my sal-va-tion. **(Tag)**

Chorus

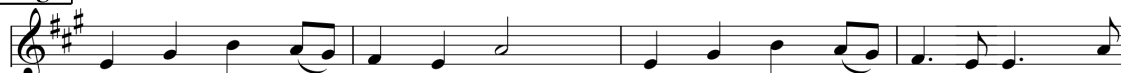


Who is like the Lord our God? Strong to save, faith-ful in love. My



debt is paid and the vic-tory won: The Lord is my sal-va-tion.

Tag



Who is like the Lord our God? Strong to save, faith-ful in love. My



debt is paid and the vic-tory won; The Lord is my sal-va-tion. Glo-ry



be to God, the Fa-ther, Glo-ry be to God, the Son, Glo-ry



be to God, the Spi-rit; The Lord is our sal-va-tion.

***GOD REVEALS, HE DOES NOT FORGET THE AFFLICTED! Psalm 10**

- Pastor: Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
- People: **In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.**
- Pastor: For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.
- People: **In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”**
- Pastor: His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of his sight; as for all his foes, he puffs at them.
- People: **He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved; throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity.”**
- Pastor: His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.
- People: **He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent.**
- Pastor: His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless; he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket; he lurks that he may seize the poor; he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.
- People: **The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might.**
- Pastor: He says in his heart, “God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it.”
- People: **Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.**
- Pastor: Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, “You will not call to account”?
- People: **But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless.**
- Pastor: Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer; call his wickedness to account till you find none. The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.
- People: **O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.**

***WHO ELSE INVITES ME TO CALL HIM FATHER?**

Peter Lilley, Bill Myers, guitar; Matt Brantley, bass; Rod Cunningham, keyboard;
Greg Wagener, drums

Only a Holy God

INTRO



VERSE



- 1. Who else com-mands all the hosts of
- 2. What oth-er beau-ty de-mands such
- 3. What oth-er glo-ry con-sumes like
- 4. Who else could res-cue me from my



heav-en?

Who else could make ev-ry king bow down?

prais-es?

What oth-er splen-dor out-shines the sun?

fi-re?

What oth-er pow-er can raise the dead?

fail-ing?

Who else would of-fer His on-ly Son?



Who else can whis-per and dark-ness trem-bles?

On-ly a Ho-ly God.

What oth-er maj-es-ty rules with just-ice?

On-ly a Ho-ly God.

What oth-er name re-mains un-de-feat-ed?

On-ly a Ho-ly God.

Who else in-vites me to call Him Fa-ther?

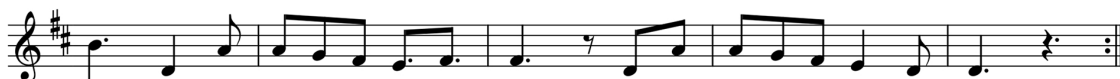
On-ly a Ho-ly God.

On-ly my Ho-ly God.

CHORUS



Come and be-hold Him, the One and the On-ly. Cry out, sing



ho-ly, for-ev-er a Ho-ly God. Come and wor-ship the Ho-ly God.

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WE INVOKE HIS HELP Psalm 79:9a

Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

WE PREPARE FOR GOD’S WORD! *Listen to God*

Sing! Jr.

Hannah kept a promise and gave her son to God.
Eli taught him wisely to walk in truth and love.
Then one night a small voice came ringing in his ear.
If he would only listen, the message would be clear.
Listen, listen, listen

Samuel, Samuel, listen to God and obey His wonderful word.
Samuel, Samuel, listen to God calling you to serve the Lord.
Saying, “Here I am, to know your will, to hear the truth that God reveals.”
Samuel, Samuel, listen to God.

God had kept a promise and gave the world His Son.
Jesus, our Redeemer, the Blessed, Holy One.
Still God’s voice is calling asking us to hear.
If we will only listen, the message will be clear.
Listen, listen, listen

Children, children, listen to God and obey His wonderful word.
Children, children, listen to God calling you to serve the Lord.
Saying, “Here I am, to know your will, to hear the truth that God reveals.”
Children, children, listen to God.
Listen to the voice of God.

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GOD PROCLAIMS HIS WORD	Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor
SERMON SERIES	“Acts”
SCRIPTURE TEXT	Acts 23:11-35
SERMON TITLE	<i>Futility on Display</i>

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”

¹² When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. ¹³ There were more than forty who made this conspiracy. ¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and elders and said, “We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul. ¹⁵ Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near.”

¹⁶ Now the son of Paul’s sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. ¹⁷ Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him.” ¹⁸ So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said, “Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you.” ¹⁹ The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, “What is it that you have to tell me?” ²⁰ And he said, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him. ²¹ But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him, who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your consent.” ²² So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, “Tell no one that you have informed me of these things.”

²³ Then he called two of the centurions and said, “Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night. ²⁴ Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor.” ²⁵ And he wrote a letter to this effect:

²⁶ “Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. ²⁷ This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman citizen. ²⁸ And desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their council. ²⁹ I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with

nothing deserving death or imprisonment. ³⁰ And when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him.”

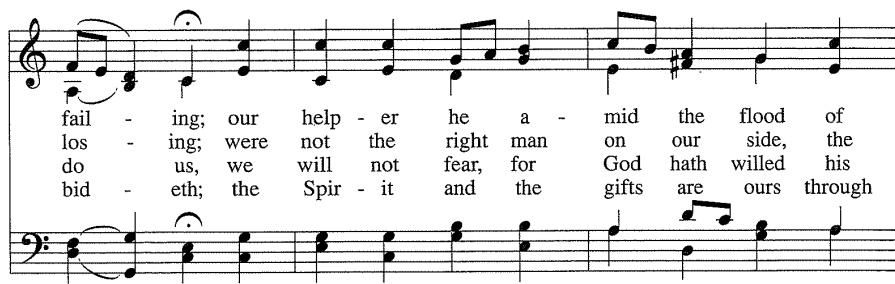
³¹ So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. ³² And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him. ³³ When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. ³⁴ On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia, ³⁵ he said, “I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive.” And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod’s praetorium.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

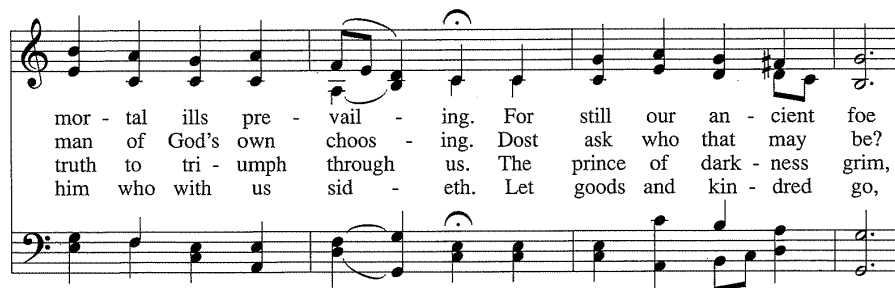
God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Ps. 46:1



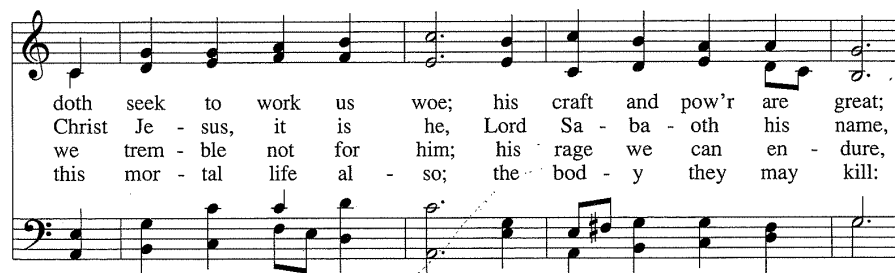
1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,



doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:

and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a - bid - eth still; his king - dom is for - ev - er.

Based on Psalm 46
 Martin Luther, 1529
 Tr. by Frederick H. Hedge, 1853

EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7.
 Martin Luther, 1529

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Reprise: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Futility on Display

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

Acts 23:11-35

How does Luke show the futility of opposing Jesus?

1. By showing the folly of human scheming.
2. By showing the fullness of Divine sovereignty.

*Congregation please rise

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