



BCRC Family Worship Guide

April 27, 2025

Preparing for Morning Worship

This Sunday morning, Pastor Milgate will preach from the book of Matthew. Take some time to read and think about this text as we approach the preaching of God's Word.

Matthew 8:28-34 (English Standard Version)

Jesus Heals Two Men with Demons

²⁸ And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" ³⁰ Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. ³¹ And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." ³² And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. ³³ The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴ And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.



The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Songs, Hymns and Spiritual Songs

...Address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord

Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:19-21

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Only a Holy God

The Lord Is My Salvation

Rejoice! The Lord is King

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow



Approaching Worship with Preparation

Before coming to God's house to hear His Word, prepare yourself and your family with prayer. The Puritans said we should dress our bodies for worship and our souls with prayer.

Pray for:

- *The conversion of sinners*
- *The edification of saints*
- *The glorification of God's triune name*
- *Listening ears and understanding hearts*
- *An outpouring of the Spirit's conviction, quickening, humbling, and comforting power to work through God's ordinances (Preaching, prayer, sacraments) in the fulfillment of His promises.*

-from "The Family at Church" by Joel R. Beeke

Liturgy Focus

Prelude

Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn

God's Greeting

Song of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Assurance

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Children's Blessing

Sermon

The Lord's Supper

Song of Response

Parting Words

Doxology

Postlude



Following Confession and the Assurance of God's grace, Calvin noted that the way is open for prayer. He writes,

“We can go boldly into the holy of holies to intercede for others, as well as ourselves, with the confidence that our Father hears us and delights in satisfying us with good things. Instead of wavering or dreading his presence, we are now confident that we are accepted children and co-heirs with our Elder Brother who is at his right hand.”

In response to this, author Michael Horton says,

“In the pastoral prayer, the minister intercedes on behalf of the church around the world, the secular rulers, and then on behalf of his own flock...Ministers intercede; they do not mediate. Like all believers, they have the privilege of bringing petitions before the covenant Lord through the only mediator, Jesus Christ.”

He goes on to point out that just as ministers represent God to the people as they proclaim Law and Gospel, they also represent the people to God as they pray. In other words, when the minister offers a prayer in public worship, it is as if he is speaking to God for the congregation. He is their representative. We are not listeners at this point, we are participating in agreement as he offers the prayer.



Preparing for Evening Worship

This Sunday evening, Pastor Milgate will preach from Romans. Take some time to read this scripture as we approach worship.

Romans 3:9-26 (English Standard Version)

No One Is Righteous

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off?^l No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,¹⁰ as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one.”

¹³ “Their throat is an open grave;

they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.²⁰ For by works of the law no human being^[c] will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.



Preparing for Evening Worship Continued...

The Righteousness of God Through Faith

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



HEIDELBERG

CATECHISM

WEEKLY

Lord's Day 17

Q&A 45

Q. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death.¹ Second, by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.² Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.³

¹ Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:16-20; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

² Rom. 6:5-11; Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 3:1-4

³ Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:12-23; Phil. 3:20-21