



Palm Sunday Evening Worship Service
March 24, 2024

"Q. 106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition? A. In the sixth petition, which is, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support us and deliver us when we are tempted."

—Westminster Shorter Catechism (Modern English)

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – March 24, 2024
Presider: Elder David Bacon

Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Please stand for the Call to Worship if you are able.

Leader Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

People Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

People For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer of Invocation

What a Friend We Have in Jesus: # 629

(Words: Joseph M. Scriven 1855; Music: Charles C. Converse 1868)

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer! _____

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross: # 252

(Words: Isaac Watts 1707; Music: Lowell Mason 1824)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down:
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Call to Confession: 2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Prayer of Confession:

Heavenly Father, we walk in the valley of the shadow of death. We face hostility in the world and persistent temptations. Our minds and bodies are weak. Sin lurks in our own desires and threatens us from within.

And yet, you pursue us with goodness and mercy. We look with hope to Christ our savior. He is able to understand our weak condition. In his death he pardoned our sin. He rose victorious over all powers in heaven and on earth. We rejoice as the Holy Spirit brings power and freedom into our lives. We yearn for the return of Christ and the renewal of all things. We long to dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Song of Renewal

We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Please direct giving online or via mail (cityreformed.org/give; 3929 Coleman St., 15207)

Stricken Smitten and Afflicted: # 257

(Words: Thomas Kelly 1804; Music: Unknown 1850)

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
By his Son God now has spoken:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear him groaning,
Was there ever grief like his?
Friends thro' fear his cause disowning,
Foes insulting his distress;
Many hands were raised to wound him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the Rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.

Scripture & Homily: James 1:12-18

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

- Reverend John McCombs

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional References

1 Chronicles 29:11 / Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

Psalms 19:13 / Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Psalms 51:10,12 / Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me... Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalms 106:48 / Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

Matthew 6:13 / And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 26:41 / Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

1 Corinthians 10:13 / No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

2 Timothy 4:18 / The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 2:18 / For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

WSC 107 / Q. 107. What does the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us?
A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer, which is, "For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer only from God, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power and glory to him. And in testimony of our desire and our assurance of being heard, we say Amen.

Corporate Prayer

Song of Thanksgiving

The King of Glory Comes: # 240

The king of glory comes,
The nation rejoices.
Open the gates before Him,
Lift up your voices.

Who is the king of glory?
How shall we call Him?
He is Emmanuel,
The promised of ages

The king of glory comes,
The nation rejoices.
Open the gates before Him,
Lift up your voices.

(continued on next page)

In all of Galilee.
In city or village,
He goes among his people,
Curing their illness.

The king of glory comes
The nation rejoices
Open the gates before Him
Lift up your voices

He gave His life for us,
The pledge of salvation.
He took upon Himself
The sin of the nations.

The king of glory comes
The nation rejoices
Open the gates before Him
Lift up your voices

He conquered sin and death,
He truly has risen.
And He will share with us
His heavenly kingdom.

The king of glory comes
The nation rejoices
Open the gates before Him
Lift up your voices

Benediction