



***“God’s Greater Story:  
People of the Promise”***  
***Sunday, October 25, 2020 9:00AM***  
***Worship Service***

**AS WE GATHER**

In our sermon series, we have turned our attention to God’s greater story and we have seen the main actor in that story – not us, but God. God is the one who was there at the beginning, creating this world and all of the cosmos; and God is the one who will be there at the end, bringing about a new and glorious recreation. In between the beginning and the end, God is here, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, working in love and ruling over ruins. At this point in the sermon series, we are going to see how God’s greater story involves a greater people, God’s greater people.

**OPENING SONG**

**“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”**

**V1-V2-V3-B-V4-Ending**

**Verse 1**

A mighty fortress is our God  
A bulwark never failing  
Our helper He amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe  
His craft and power are great  
And armed with cruel hate  
On earth is not his equal

**Verse 2**

Did we in our own strength confide  
Our striving would be losing  
Were not the right Man on our side  
The Man of God's own choosing  
Dost ask who that may be  
Christ Jesus it is He  
Lord Sabaoth His name  
From age to age the same  
And He must win the battle

**Verse 3**

And though this world  
With devils filled  
Should threaten to undo us  
We will not fear  
For God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us  
The prince of darkness grim  
We tremble not for him  
His rage we can endure  
For lo his doom is sure  
One little word shall fell him

**Bridge**

A mighty fortress  
A mighty fortress is our God  
A mighty fortress  
A mighty fortress is our God

#### Verse 4

That word above all earthly pow'rs  
No thanks to them abideth  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Through Him who with us sideth  
Let goods and kindred go  
This mortal life also  
The body they may kill  
God's truth abideth still  
His kingdom is forever

#### Ending

A mighty fortress  
A mighty fortress is our God  
A mighty fortress  
A mighty fortress is our God  
A mighty fortress  
A mighty fortress is our God.

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#### Stand

#### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

#### OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 46:1a, 2a; Romans 3:23–24a; John 8:31b–32*)

**P** God is our refuge and strength;  
**C** therefore we will not fear.

**P** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
**C** and are justified by His grace as a gift.

**P** If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples,  
**C** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (*Incorporating Psalm 46:4, 7, 11*)

**P** Lord of hosts,  
**C** hear our confession of sins and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not trusted in Your promised protection and strength but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You alone have provided the remedy for that which truly causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from Your present help. We ask it in the name of Jesus.

**P** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, in spite of our fear, the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

By grace God has created each of us and everything that exists, and in the person of His Son entered our history and paid for our every sin and sin itself. In Christ's resurrection, God's promises have been made sure. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**☐ Amen. The Lord of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!**

*Sit*

**SONG OF PRAISE**

**“By Faith”**

**V1-V2-C-V3-V4-C-V5-C-C-Tag**

**Verse 1**

By faith we see the hand of God  
In the light of creation's grand design  
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness  
Who walk by faith and not by sight

**Verse 2**

By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand  
A place where peace and justice reign

**Chorus**

We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

**Verse 3**

By faith the prophets saw a day  
When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death  
And rise triumphant from the grave

**Verse 4**

By faith the church was called to go  
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost  
To deliver captives and to preach good news  
In ev'ry corner of the earth

**Verse 5**

By faith the mountain shall be moved  
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail  
For we know in Christ all things are possible  
For all who call upon His name

**Tag**

We'll walk by faith and not by sight

*Stand*

## KYRIE

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord of hosts, have mercy.

**P** For those living in fear because of sudden disaster, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord of creation, have mercy.

**P** For those living in fear because of the evil intentions of people in power, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord of lords, have mercy.

**P** For those living in fear because of evil forces within the Church and oppression beyond it, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Christ, our Lord, have mercy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## FIRST READING

**Revelation 14:6–7**

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup>And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

**John 8:31–36**

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

**SONG OF DAY**      “Living Hope”

**V1-V2-C-V3-V3-C-C-Ending**

### Verse 1

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness

Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished the end is written  
Jesus Christ my living hope

### **Verse 2**

Who could imagine so great a mercy  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ my living hope

### **Chorus**

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ my living hope

### **Verse 3**

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
(REPEAT)  
Jesus Yours is the **victory**

### **Ending**

Jesus Christ my living hope  
Oh God You are my living hope

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## **SERMON**

## **“God’s Greater Story: People of the Promise”**

## **Romans 9:1-5 (6-13)**

*Stand*

### **NICENE CREED**

**☐ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,**

being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their varied circumstances.

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, strengthen the Church here and wherever it gathers around Your Word and celebrates the blessed Sacraments. Grant confident faith to clergy and laity, pastors in congregations and missionaries in distant lands, elders in the faith and newly baptized alike. Help us to put all our trust in Your protection and power. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Strong Creator, wherever people call out to You as the earth gives way, mountains move into the heart of the sea, and mountains tremble, hear their cries and keep them safe. Awaken courage and wisdom in those who search and rescue, those who provide physical and spiritual counsel, and those who offer long-term support of body and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Holy Spirit, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, use the earthly powers that be to move the nations and their leaders to seek ways toward peace with their neighbors and stability within their borders. You, who make wars cease to the end of the earth, provide courage and compassion to all who work for peace and protection as they are deployed abroad and all who maintain concord and order within our communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Gracious God, stream joy and gladness to those who wait for the dawning of a new day, those dealing with long-term ills, unemployment, discrimination, unjust imprisonment, strife in their families, and the loss of loved ones, [*especially* . . .]. Assure them that You are with them, even now a very present help in trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

- P** Lord of hosts, worthy to be exalted among the nations, into Your almighty hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. Hear our prayer for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

### PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of hosts, Creator of all, for in Your foresight and compassion You promised to send Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to bear our sins and be our Savior. With Your Holy Spirit's gift of faith, we rely on Your presence always and rejoice to receive Your Son as He comes to us in this blessed Sacrament. Strengthen us thereby that we continue in confident faith, fearing not world, Satan, or sinful flesh. Grant us the assurance that You are both with us and for us each day so that we freely serve You until we see You face-to-face in eternity. To You alone be all the glory and honor, O Father, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

*Sit*

**DISTRIBUTION SONGS**

**“Here I Am to Worship”**

**V1-C-V2-C-Bridge 2x-C-C**

**Verse 1**

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

**Chorus**

Here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

**Verse 2**

King of all days oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor

**Bridge**

I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

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**“In Christ Alone”**

**V1-V2-V3-V4-Tag**

**Verse 1**

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

**Verse 2**

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied



For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

### **Verse 3**

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

### **Verse 4**

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand

### **Tag**

Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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### **“I Love You, Lord”**

**3x through**

I love You Lord  
And I lift my voice  
To worship You  
O my soul rejoice  
Take joy my King  
In what You hear  
May it be a sweet sweet sound  
In Your ear

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### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING SONG

## “Your Grace is Enough”

V1-PC-C-V2-PC-C-C-PC-C-C2

### Verse 1

Great is Your faithfulness O God  
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart  
You lead us by still waters and to mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart

### Pre-Chorus

So remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise O God

### Chorus 1

Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me

### Verse 2

Great is Your love and justice God  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
And all Your people sing along

### Chorus 2

Your grace is enough  
Heaven reaching down to us  
Your grace is enough for me  
God I see Your grace is enough  
I'm covered in Your love  
Your grace is enough for me  
For me

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## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

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