

COME BEFORE HIM WITH THANKSGIVING

I. CALL TO WORSHIP

A. Orientation.

1. The book of Psalms captures the entire panorama of God's dealing with men and women.
 - a. His love for us.
 - b. Our sin and the need for confession and sacrifice.
 - c. The suffering and death of God's Son on our behalf.
 - d. The resurrection of the Son from death.
2. We will use the Psalms to worship and celebrate.
 - a. Our sermon will come from the Psalms.
 - b. Our emphasis will be on worship: on praise and confession, remembrance and celebration.
3. *You will need to follow the handout. Songs will not be announced.*

B. Admonition to Worship.

1. Worship is a participatory event.
 - a. Unfortunately, worship is in danger of becoming a spectator sport.
 - i. You sit and listen.
 - ii. Others stand and speak.
 - b. Today, you are invited to be a full participant in our worship to God.
 - i. Worship is a verb. Something we do rather than an activity we attend or observe.
2. So, I admonish you – worship the Lord today!
 - a. Clear your minds of all thoughts but Him.
 - b. Lose yourself in the songs and readings.
 - c. Enter enthusiastically into the singing.

C. Reading: Psalm 95:1-7a.

Song: Come, Thou Almighty King (#19, vss. 1 & 2).

Reading: Psalm 29:1-2

II. PERIOD OF PRAISE.

A. There are a few things which cannot be done in moderation.

1. You don't love your children moderately.
2. You cannot race at half speed.
3. You do not praise God with half a heart, with partial attention, with the volume turned down.

B. Praise – by definition – must be:

1. Exuberant, enthusiastic, exciting, joyous, and intense.

C. Praise is immoderate. It is the extravagant, exorbitant, extreme expression of wonder, awe and love to our great God.

D. Worship invites us to focus on God and forget about ourselves.

E. Reading: Psalm 103:1-5, 8-14.

Songs: Praise the Lord (#74).

Songs: Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah (#3).

Reading: Psalm 117

III. PERIOD OF CONFESSION.

- A. It is when we forget about ourselves and come into the presence of God that we see ourselves most clearly for who we are.
- B. Like the prophet Isaiah, we remember our sins and exclaim, “Woe is me!”
- C. What does God ask of us...that we be sinless?
 - 1. No, rather that we confess our sins.
 - 2. That we not be fooled by our own righteous façade.
 - 3. Into believing that we have a right to stand in God’s presence without His grace.
- D. We are in His presence now by His mercy and His mercy alone.
 - 1. We are sinners.
 - 2. It is only right that we confess this fact to God.

E. Reading: Psalm 32:1-5.

Period of Silent Confession before God.

Song: I Need Thee Every Hour (#837).

Prayer: (In the thought of Psalm 51)

Reading: Psalm 51:7-15

Song: Unto Thee O Lord (#794).

IV. PERIOD OF REMEMBRANCE.

- A. It was because we were sinners that a lamb was needed.
 - 1. It was because we were soiled by rebellion and selfishness that cleansing was required.
 - 2. It was because we were transgressors that Jesus came and died.
- B. Every week, we gather to eat this bread and drink this cup.
 - 1. We remember that Jesus died for sinners, that Jesus died for us.
 - 2. Remember that it was for our transgressions that He suffered.
 - 3. For our iniquities Christ died.

C. *Song: Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross (#383).*

Reading: Psalm 22:1-19

The Lord’s Supper

Song: Glorify Thy Name (#77)

Reading: Psalm 2

V. PERIOD OF REJOICING.

- A. In the Temple, worshippers moved from the city to the Temple grounds.
 - 1. Through the Court of Women and the Court of Gentiles, to the altar.
 - 2. Beyond that, only a select few could move into the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.
- B. We have done the same today.
 - 1. As worshipers, we have moved from the bustle of our lives to this place of worship.
 - 2. We have entered into praise and confession and remembrance.

3. Now it is time to enter that holiest place of all.
- C. It is a simple thing for a man to die – they do it all the time.
 1. It is a far harder and rarer things to conquer death and rise to live again.
 2. But our worship would not be complete if we did not contemplate and rejoice over the fact that our Lord did not stay dead.
 3. God had other plans for Him – and for us.
- D. *Song: Low in the Grave (#344).*
 - Ps. 16:8-11a – followed by verse 1 of song.
 - Ps. 40:1-3 – followed by verse 2 of song.
 - Ps. 30:1-3 – followed by verse 3 of song.

Reading: Psalm 96
Song: I Know That My Redeemer Lives (#528).

VI. CONCLUDING PRAISE.

- A. We conclude this worship period as we began – by praising God.
 1. Because He is a great God, worthy of our adoration and devotion.
 2. Because we are great sinners, yet He loves us and shows mercy.
 3. Because He sent His Son to die so that we might live with Him.
 4. Because He has raised His Son from the dead – a sign of assurance that one day we will rise to live with Him forever!
- B. Reading: Psalms 146:1-2; 147:1; 148:1-4; 149:1; 150:1-2, 6
Song: To God Be the Glory (#4).

Offering and Closing Prayer