



The Law

Ordinary Time — Week 3

Prayer Services based on the Ten Commandments

Why a prayer book for the Church of God?

The modern Church of God has lost all semblance of worship in their assemblies and convocations. With very few exceptions, when they come together for the Sabbath or Holy Days, the format is nearly always the same as that created by Herbert W. Armstrong for the Radio Church of God (later the Worldwide Church of God). Services begin with two or three hymns, then a prayer, followed by the sermonette, another hymn, the sermon itself, a final hymn and ending with a prayer.

The people in attendance participate little in these so-called worship services, other than in the singing of the hymns. There is no biblical precedent for these types of services; and there is nothing in the history of ancient Israel or in ancient Judaism from which to create this model either. Rather, this form of service grows out from the need of the leaders of the church to maintain absolute control and to elevate themselves above the brethren.

They claim to be following the instructions of Paul in the New Testament regarding the deacons and elders of the churches, but it is faulty understanding of the roles of these men that has led to the present day worship model. There is not room in this brief introduction to explore the roles of deacons, deaconesses, elders, or the other offices established by Paul, but suffice it to say, their primary jobs were that of planning, organization, and maintaining order. They were not preachers in the sense that we know that word today; they were servants to the flock.

The Apostolic Church did not assemble together to listen to sermons delivered by a leader or cadre of leaders. When they came together, everyone was free to participate, but Paul admonishes them in Corinthians to do it in an orderly fashion. This is not to say they never listened to a speaker deliver a message. It happened all the time when visiting apostles were in attendance and from among people of their own congregations, including the elders, but usually included a significant amount of time in questions and answers, and a free give and take among those gathered. However, even before the death of all the apostles, men were rising up in the congregations and establishing themselves as leaders, even putting out of the church brethren who didn't comply with their rule (3 John 10).

The history of the Christian Church gives evidence to how far this model for worship services has spread. Every congregation now has an "ordained" minister or pastor over the flock. But it seems the modern Church of God

have been the ones who have taken the model to its extreme, where only the head pastor and his hand-picked deacons and elders can speak in the assemblies. Everyone else must sit, all facing forward, and listen. Their only form of participation has become standing up, singing a song, and sitting down.

This is not how God desires his people to worship him. While it is better than nothing at all, it still fails to engage the people in true worship of their Lord.

The Tabernacle as Model

God gave detailed instructions in the Old Testament for the construction of the tabernacle, the outfitting of that tabernacle, the clothing of the priests who were to serve in the tabernacle, and the ways they were to live and function. The entire tribe of Levi was set apart to be priests and the family of Aaron was selected as the high priests, the only ones who could enter the holy of holies at that time. But all the priests had jobs and functions in the tabernacle that they performed daily on a rotating schedule.

Until the fall of the temple in 70 AD, one of the major roles of the priesthood was the sacrifice of animals on the altar. These sacrifices were for a variety of different reasons, but nearly all were performed on the behalf of the people. Without a serious study of this subject (which we can't do here for space considerations), it might appear that today's church structure and organization is following this model, minus the animal sacrifices.

But, there is an element missing in today's church, whether we are talking of the mainstream Christian Church or the Churches of God. That element is the fact that God says that ALL of his chosen people will be priests of the most high.

Revelation 20:6 ESV

6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but **they will be priests of God** and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

This means that we all need to learn to function as priests and offer up our sacrifices (in the form of prayer and worship) to God

daily. That role is not being fulfilled by sitting and listening to a sermon delivered every week by the leaders of the church. As priests ourselves, we need to become engaged in the worship of our God. Now is our time of training in preparation for Christ's return when we will reign with him for a thousand years.

The tabernacle in the wilderness was only the model that served for the time it was needed. The temple was constructed (and re-constructed) on the same model. When the temple period ended, the spiritual temple became constructed within God's chosen people, but on the same model God gave at Mt. Sinai. Only now, the sacrifices are of the lips in the form of prayer and worship (Hosea 14:2).

Hosea 14:2 NKJV

2 Take words with you, And return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive *us* graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips."

If we are to take WORDS and offer the SACRIFICES of our LIPS, what else could it be but prayer and worship? It certainly does not mean kissing someone's ring, literally or figuratively. It is not something that is left only to the leadership, but something of which each and every one of us is called upon to participate.

The most important thing to remember here is that the tabernacle and all that follows, were modeled on the tabernacle in heaven. That is why God instructed Moses to see that it was done exactly as God said it should be.

Hebrews 8:5 ESV

5 They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."

That first physical model was so important, and is why such a large portion of the scripture is devoted to it. It was an image of God's tabernacle in heaven. It set the stage, in a physical world, for all that was to follow and what is yet to come.

A Model in Heaven

The priests did more than animal sacrifices. They were responsible for the maintenance of the tabernacle, the candlesticks, and the table of showbread. They offered prayers, including the singing and chanting of psalms. Later, when the scriptures were written down, they read from the scriptures. But these things were not done in isolation, away from the eyes of the people.

Every day, for both the morning and evening sacrifices, people came to the tabernacle (or temple) with their sacrifices as well. They sang and prayed to their God before the altar of burnt offerings, evidenced by the high priest offering a blessing on the people at the end of the services each day (Num. 6:24-26).

The Psalms, themselves, are evidence of ancient Israel's worship of their God. The Psalms were recited, sung, and chanted. We only have 150 of the Psalms recorded. It is hard to say how many may have become lost with the passage of time before they were written down.

In the scriptures, God has allowed us few glimpses into the tabernacle in heaven, but from what we have been shown through the visions of Ezekiel and John, praise and worship of God is going on continually. The elders before the throne of God are shown to fall down in worship and adoration, as well as the multitudes and multitudes of angels. *This is the model that we have been given.*

The evidence of the people's participation in worship in past generations is abundant in the pages of scripture, both the Old and the New Testaments. Even the mainstream Christian Church has maintained the daily offerings of prayer throughout its history. It was only with the Reformation and the birth of Protestantism that it became relegated to one day a week.

With the revival of the Church of God in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the liturgical aspects of the service were eliminated, primarily as a way to distance themselves from the apostate church. However, this has robbed the people of an important element of their walk with, and worship of, their God. In today's church the people are encouraged to pray privately every day and, to the church's credit, they are encouraged to study and dig

into the scriptures, but they are not offered any form of public or private worship.

The purpose of this series of prayer services for the Church of God is designed to remedy that lack. Nothing like this has ever been done before in the Church of God and will certainly be met with scorn by some and complete resistance by others. But for those who will accept them, hopefully they will be only a jumping off point for individuals to engage in their own private acts of worship. Some may look upon them as merely “crutches” and not true worship. That may be, but it is better to have a crutch to begin the healing process than to not be able to walk at all.

Structure of the Services

The services are primarily designed for individual or small group use. They are not offered as a new model for a Sabbath-day or Holy Day service. There are two services offered each day, a morning and an evening service, to comply with God’s command for the two daily sacrifices at the tabernacle. Each service is less than a half hour, depending on how long one engages in the intercessory prayers. Each service is composed of basically three parts — *praise*, *listening* and *speaking*. The first consists of elements of praise to God, the second of reading and studying his word, and the last is the offering of our prayers for ourselves, our loved ones, our communities, the church, and the world at large.

The elements of the services are heavily scripture based. Nearly all statements, words of praise, and lead-ins to the various sections are drawn straight from scripture. Sometimes elements are carried throughout an entire week; at other times, all the elements change to match the time of year.

The series is made up of small booklets, usually consisting of only one or two weeks of services, and they are all designed around God’s calendar. As the series is still being written, we only have booklets for the time between the Holy Days completed at this time. The goal is to complete each section prior to each season throughout this year (2008-2009).

When finished the series will include:

Passover — From Nissan 1 (Abib 1), or New Year's Day, through the 14th of the first month.

Days of Unleavened Bread — From the 15th through the 21st of the first month.

Counting the Omer — One booklet with seven days of services to be rotated throughout the seven weeks leading into Pentecost.

Pentecost — One booklet with two weeks of services, to be used during the weeks following Pentecost.

Ordinary Time — Four booklets each containing one week of services, written on a major theme from the Bible. The time between the Holy Days we are calling "ordinary time" and flows from Pentecost until the fall festivals and is repeated again at the end of the year from the Eighth Day (Last Great Day) until New Year's Day comes again the following spring. These booklets are designed to be rotated through that time frame. (Other booklets may be added at a later date).

Heshuvah — One booklet with seven days of services to be rotated through the month of Elul, known by some as the month of repentance leading up to the Feast of Trumpets. This booklet is designed for those who observe this time. For others, they would continue with the booklets called "Ordinary Time."

Fall Festivals — One booklet with two weeks of services to cover the period from the Feast of Trumpets, through the Day of Atonement and up to the Feast of Tabernacles. The first 10 days are known as the "Days of Awe."

Feast of Tabernacles — One booklet with services for eight days to cover the Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day (the Last Great Day).

How to Use the Booklets

Some of the booklets are laid out from the 1st Day of the Week through the Sabbath. Others are listed as the actual day, such as

Nissan 1, or Tishri 1. In any given year, depending on when the days fall, it will be easy to move from one set of booklets to another. If the first day of Ordinary Time falls on a Wednesday, you would merely begin your service on the Wednesday of the first booklet. Likewise with the booklets that are laid out with the actual dates. When that day arrives, regardless of your place in another booklet, you would merely move to the appropriate booklet of services for the time.

If holding the services for a small group, assign a leader for the service, preferably a different person each time. Women may serve as leaders in this instance, as these services are not a form of “teaching” or assuming any kind of authority over the brethren or the church. However, if that is too hard for you, then do what your conscience dictates. The leader reads the elements that appear in regular type face and the group responds with the elements that appear in bold face italic. If holding a service alone, the individual reads all the parts, either silently or out loud.

Music is available to accompany all the hymns, either in the form of piano accompaniment or, in some cases, full choral arrangements. All may be found at www.soundatrumpet.com/sabbathservices.htm. The full blue and the full burgundy hymnals of the Church of God are available in piano accompaniment and many from the purple hymnal are available in choral arrangements.

In Conclusion

To create these prayer services for the Church of God, several prayer books from other organizations were studied for format, nature of the devotion, content, purpose, and style. Included were the four-volume *The Divine Hours* by Phyllis Tickle, a set of Catholic prayerbooks; *The Book of Common Prayer*, the 1979 Anglican edition, the standard from which all other churches seem to begin; the prayer books of the Anabaptist and Mennonite church; the Worship Books of the Methodist, the Presbyterian, and the United Church of Christ churches; and the *Siddur* of the Jewish synagogue services.

Elements from all have influenced the compilations of these prayer books for the Church of God. However, the decision to keep most elements in their original form straight from the scriptures themselves was predicated on the need to avoid all statements or

illusions to doctrinal teachings that are not biblical — such as the Trinity, the reward of a good life being an immediate escort to heaven, Jesus Christ as the object of our worship, and more.

The use of terms that smack of “churchianity” have been avoided wherever possible. Don’t be alarmed by the few that still remain. For example, a *Canticle* is simply scripture that can be read, sung or chanted, and is often an element that may be repeated several days in a row. We have retained the word for lack of a better one. The *Benediction* merely means the blessing at the end of the service. All services end with the same blessing the High Priest gave in the temple in ancient Israel (Num. 6:24-26).

May God bless this project and any of his chosen people who will approach it with open and loving hearts.

Ordinary Time

The Ten Commandments

Week 3

Ordinary Time is a term most often found in mainstream Christianity and refers to the weeks that fall between the seasons of the year that are celebrated by the church. They begin their year in early December with Advent, leading to Christmas, followed by Epiphany, which flows into Lent and Easter. The Easter season is extended out to Pentecost. From Pentecost to Advent is known as Ordinary Time or the period between the Christian seasons — the “down time,” so to speak.

Those of us who observe God’s Calendar also have periods of time between the Holy Days that could be called the “down times,” or *Ordinary Time*, so we have borrowed the same term for this series of prayer books. The main difference, of course, is that Ordinary Time in God’s calendar occurs twice a year.

God’s calendar revolves around the harvest seasons. It begins in the spring on Abib 1 (Nissan 1) with New Year’s Day (usually in March or April). The Holy Day season begins with preparation for Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, the Wave Sheaf, and encompasses the 50-day count to Pentecost. From Pentecost until the New Moon of Elul (usually in August) is “down time” or Ordinary Time in God’s calendar.

The month of Elul is known by some as the month of repentance (or *Heshuvah*) leading into the Feast of Trumpets. For those who observe these days, we have included a prayer book for Heshuvah. For others who do not, that time period would still be counted as Ordinary Time.

From the Feast of Trumpets, through the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Eighth Day are Holy Days of God. From the Last Great Day (the Eighth Day), time returns to Ordinary or “down” time again throughout the remainder of the year until New Year’s Day comes again the following Spring.

For Ordinary Time we have prepared four weeks of morning and evening prayer services, each week revolving around a major biblical theme. The weeks are alternated through the time frame we are calling Ordinary Time.

The theme for the first week is the *Sermon on the Mount*, the second week is the *Fruits of the Spirit*, the third week addresses *The Ten Commandments*, and the final week is *Following In His Footsteps*.

As with all the other prayer books in this annual cycle series, these prayer services are designed for individual or small group use. There are two services per day offered to coincide with the command of God for the two daily sacrifices in the tabernacle — in the morning and in the evening. It is commonly held that those sacrifices occurred at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The schedule you choose to follow will be dependent on your own personal schedule and lifestyle, however, remember that God marks time from evening to evening, so if your evening service falls after dark, it is already the next day. You might want to adjust your reading and prayers to accommodate that timing, especially on the Sabbath.

The Third Week — The Ten Commandments

For the third week, we selected the Ten Commandments as it represents all of the Law through the expansion of each commandment. A prayer service or two based on each of the commandments was created. There are some common elements used throughout these services. The morning and evening Canticles remain the same throughout the week, so their messages can be deeply rooted in our minds.

Scripture readings span both the Old and the New Testament, drawing the message of each commandment into sharper focus, tying it all together as a complete message for Spiritual Israel on how to live within the Law, yet avoid the “legalism” of the Pharisees. The receipt of God’s Holy Spirit leads us to desire to live within the Law out of our love for our God, as opposed to “doing” the Law out of some useless attempt at salvation, which is a free gift from God — not something that can be earned.

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The First Commandment—

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

First Day of the Week (Sunday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

Great peace have they who love your law;
for them there is no stumbling block.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for evermore.
*From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

[Exodus 20:18-21 ESV](#)

- 18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off
- 19 and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.”
- 20 Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”
- 21 The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, O God,

we give you thanks,
***calling upon your name
and declaring all your wonderful deeds.***

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

We sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
making melody to you in our hearts, O Lord. Amen.

Song

#90 (Choral)

O How Love I Thy Law!

Psalm 119

Dwight Armstrong

O how love I Thy law! It is ever with me.
It is my meditation all the day in my thoughts.
I have held back my feet from the ways of this world;
Thou hast given me wisdom by Thy righteous commands.

O how love I Thy law! It is ever with me;
I have more understanding than the ancients of old.
From Thy precepts I learn ev'ry false way to hate;
I have more understanding for I dwell on Thy law.

O how love I Thy law! It is ever with me;
Thy commands make me wiser than my unfriendly foes.
O how sweet are Thy words, more than honey is sweet!
From Thy Judgments eternal, let me never depart.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Let us hold to the standard of sound teaching that we have heard,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

***We will guard the good treasure entrusted to us,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.***

Exodus 20:1-3 ESV

- 1 And God spoke all these words, saying,
- 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- 3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

Leviticus 22:31-33 ESV

- 31 "So you shall keep my commandments and do them: I am the LORD.
- 32 And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you,
- 33 who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD."

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 ESV

- 12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,
- 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

Matthew 22:37 ESV

- 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Deuteronomy 12:8 ESV

- 8 "You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes,

Psalms 82:6 ESV

- 6 I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you;

John 10:34-35 ESV

- 34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?
- 35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#62 (Choral)

Praise The Eternal With A Psalm!

Psalm 81

Dwight Armstrong

Praise the Eternal with a Psalm; sing to the God of Jacob
Raise the chorus, make a joyful noise; bring out the harp and timbrel.
Blow on the trumpet, sound the drum, On our solemn feast day;
This is a statute and a law which God has ordained for Isr'el.

"Hear, O my people, hear my voice; I will admonish Isr'el;
You shall have no other foreign gods; I am the God who freed you.
When you were troubled you did call; I delivered Isr'el."
God answer'd in the secret place; with thunder He did command them.

"I am the God who brought you out, out from the land of Egypt;
Hear, O Isr'el, open wide your mouth; I surely then will fill it."
But Israel would not heed God; they would have their own ways;
O, if they only had obeyed, their God would have surely freed them.

Praise the Eternal with a Psalm; sing to the God of Jacob
Raise the chorus, make a joyful noise; bring out the harp and timbrel.
Blow on the trumpet, sound the drum, On our solemn feast day;
This is a statute and a law which God has ordained for Isr'el.

Canticle

[Exodus 19:3-8 ESV](#)

- 3 while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:
- 4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
- 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;
- 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

- 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
- 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Who is like you among the gods, O Lord?
***Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises, working wonders?***

God of bountiful harvest, your Spirit pours out gifts on your people. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

Your grace can bring joy even in the midst of affliction. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

Your desire is that we provide for those in need. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

You make our footsteps firm to walk in your paths. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be one.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

You guard the ways of the just. We pray for the world, that your reign
may come and your will be done on earth.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

You are the Lord God, the only God,
and I choose to honor you
and have no other gods before you.
Help me to recognize any pretenders.
Give me wisdom to guard against letting my adoration
and affection be captured by a lie, by faulty thinking,
by something or someone taking your place in my life.
May my worship of you be ever purer
and marked by greater love.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Charge and Benediction

You are truly all-powerful, all-knowing,
and all present.
You never vary from who you have
revealed yourself to be.
You are true in every word and deed.
Thank you for revealing yourself to me. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The First Commandment—

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

First Day of the Week (Sunday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

Indeed, none who wait for you
shall be put to shame; ...

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.*

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Your testimonies are very sure,
*and holiness adorns your house,
O Lord, for ever and for evermore.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 89:14-18 ESV](#)

- 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
- 15 Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O
LORD, in the light of your face,
- 16 who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are
exalted.
- 17 For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is
exalted.
- 18 For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of
Israel.

Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you that you gave us rules for life that go beyond moral regulations and call us toward a profound love for ourselves and all people.

We thank you that you see deeply into our hearts and invite us into a journey toward truth.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Thanks be to you, O God,
for your life is abundant indeed! Amen.

Song

#72 (Choral)

O Come And Let Us Worship Him

Psalm 95

Dwight Armstrong

O come, let us in songs to God, Our cheerful voices raise;
In joyful shouts let us the Rock Of our salvation praise!
Before His presence let us come With praise and thankful voice;
Let us sing psalms to Him with grace, And make a joyful noise!

For God, a mighty God and King; Above all Gods He is;
The depths of earth are in His hand, The strength of hills is His.
To Him the spacious sea belongs, For He the same did make;
The dry land also from His hands Its form at first did take.

O come, and let us worship Him, Let us bow down withal;
And on our knees, before the Lord, Our Maker, let us fall.
Because He only is our God; And we His people are;
And of His pasture, we are sheep In His Almighty care.

Confession

O Lord, when we place your wisdom along side ours,
what else can we do but remain silent before you
in humble confession. Which of us can imagine
that we are wise in your terms?

Which of us can honestly stand before you
and pretend that we have even a measure of your
righteousness?

***O God, you know how uncertain we often feel.
Give us the faith and courage to change
and forgive us when we fail. Amen***

(silence)

Words of Assurance

God does not store up our sins for judgment.

Today we may lay down all that troubles us
and gather to ourselves gifts of grace beyond
anything we have deserved.

We are forgiven and offered new life.

Thanks be to God.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

All scripture is breathed out of God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

***that the man of God may be competent,
equipped for every good work.***

Exodus 24:3-8 ESV

3 Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all
the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All
the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."

- 4 And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.
- 5 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.
- 6 And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar.
- 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."
- 8 And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Romans 13:8-10 ESV

- 8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#75 (Choral)

Holy, Mighty Majesty!

Psalm 99

Dwight Armstrong

The Eternal reigneth high above; He is mighty, He is great!
 There between the cherubim He sits; let the people praise His name!
 He is King and He maintains the right; He restoreth equity;
 Worship and exalt the Eternal One! Holy, Mighty Majesty!

The Eternal One is God and King, and He spoke unto His priests;
 In the pillar of the cloud He spoke, unto them who kept His law.

Moses is among them, Aaron too; they extolled the Lord their God.
Samuel also called upon His name; God did hear, and answered them.

O Eternal, You did answer them; You forgave and you avenged;
So, exalt the One Eternal God, Who in Zion is most great!
He is King and He maintains the right; He restoreth equity;
Worship and exalt the Eternal One! Holy, Mighty Majesty!

Canticle

Psalms 19:7-11 ESV

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
- 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

We Respond to Him

Intercessary Prayers

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
***be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer.***

God of bountiful harvest, your Spirit pours out gifts on your people. In
your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

Your grace can bring joy even in the midst of affliction. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

Your desire is that we provide for those in need. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

You make our footsteps firm to walk in your paths. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be one.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

You guard the ways of the just. We pray for the world, that your reign may come and your will be done on earth.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,

your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,
a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?
O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD,
with your faithfulness all around you?

Charge and Benediction

May every moment speak to us of our God,
every new hour bring messages of hope,
and every day hold the great truth:
that we are never left alone. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Second Commandment—

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, ...”

Second Day of the Week (Monday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

As for God, his ways are perfect;
the words of the Lord are tried in the fire;
he is a shield to all who trust in him.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Seven times a day do I praise you,
because of your righteous judgments.
*Great peace have they who love your law:
for them there is no stumbling block.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 97:1-11 ESV](#)

- 1 The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!
- 2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!

- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

Thanksgiving

We bring before you our thanks and praise, O God. We, who can never really believe that you will walk closely with us, no matter who we are, give our thanks to you each day.

We, who are ordinary, blessed over and over again by your extraordinary love for us and the world, thank you with all our hearts.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

O Holy One of all time and place,
thanks be to you for all that you give us in unbelievable grace. Amen.

Song

#91 (Choral)

For Thy Law is Truth and Love

Psalm 119

Dwight Armstrong

With my whole heart have I cried to Thee; O Eternal hear my prayer;
For I keep Thy law and meditate On Thy precepts night and day.
I am up before the dawn to pray; For my hope is in Thy word.
Hear my voice according to Thy great love Save me Lord, and
quicken me.

My pursuers come with malice near; And Thy law they do not keep;
But Eternal, Thou art near to me And all Thy commands are true;

Thou hast founded them forever, Lord, They are valid for all time.
Look on my affliction, deliver me; For I love Thy law, O God.

I do not forget Thy law, O God; How I love all Thy commands;
But the wicked do not seek Thy law And Thy way is far from them.
Many are my persecutors, Lord, Yet I never turned from Thee.
O consider how I do love Thy law; For Thy law is truth and love.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Let us hold to the standard of sound teaching that we have heard,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

***We will guard the good treasure entrusted to us,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.***

Exodus 20:4-6 ESV

- 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,
6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 ESV

- 12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,
13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

Leviticus 18:26-30 ESV

- 26 But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you
27 (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean),

- 28 lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.
- 29 For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people.
- 30 So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God."

1 **Corinthians 8:4-6** ESV

- 4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one."
- 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—
- 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#40 (Choral)

Give Thanks and Offer Praise

Psalm 50

Dwight Armstrong

Hear, O my people, and I'll speak, O Israel by name.
Against you I will testify, for God your God I am.
The fowls are all to me well known, that mountains high do yield;
I also claim as all my own The wild beasts of the field.

Pay all your vows to God most high; Give thanks and offer praise,
And when the day of trouble comes I'll hear and answer you.
Think you that I would eat of flesh or ask for sacrifice?
But rather unto Me your God, give thanks and offer praise.

But to the wicked man God says, Why mention my commands?
Why take my compact on your lips and cast my words behind?
Mark this, you who forget your God, and my instruction hate;
Therefore shall none deliver you, for this is my reproof.

Canticle

Exodus 19:3-8 ESV

- 3 while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:
- 4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
- 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;
- 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."
- 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
- 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Who is like you among the gods, O Lord?

***Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises, working wonders?***

God of grace, you have given us your law to lead us into life. In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayers.

You promise us rebirth and renewal. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

You invite us to give generously to those in need. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

You became poor so that we may be rich. We pray for the church in all places, that we may know the freedom of life in the Spirit.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

Your law guides us in our pilgrimage on earth. We pray for the world and for all who care for creation.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

Lord, thank you that you are indeed the true and living God, not some imaginary god or a dead idol that can neither see or hear, that cannot save or deliver in any way, that is never sufficient for the least need in life, and that gives no true satisfaction or significance to life. Thank you for your warning of the dangers and deceptions of idols and idolatry. May we continue

to grow in perception and the practice of
guarding against all idolatry.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May the road before us lead
into the high mountains of good
and the path beneath our feet be paved
with the rock of God's strength.
May our hearts sing with a hope
that is grand and free, and the Spirit of God
place in our souls an image of
a new world ahead. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Second Commandment—

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, ...”

Second Day of the Week (Monday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

The righteous will be glad ...
and they will say,

*“Surely there is a reward for the righteous;
surely there is a God who rules in the earth.”*

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Your testimonies are very sure,
*and holiness adorns your house,
O Lord, for ever and for evermore.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

[1 Corinthians 10:19-20 ESV](#)

19 What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

20 No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you that you gave us rules for life that go beyond moral regulations and call us toward a profound love for ourselves and all people.

***We thank you that you see deeply into
our hearts and invite us into a
journey toward truth.***

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Thanks be to you, O God,
for your life is abundant indeed! Amen.

Song

#92 (Choral)

I Hate the Thoughts of Vanity

Psalm 119

Dwight Armstrong

I hate the tho'ts of vanity but I do love Thy law.
Thou art my shield and hiding place; I on Thy work rely.
All ye who evil doers are, from me depart away;
Because the precepts of my God I purpose to obey.

Uphold and strengthen me according to Thy faithful word;
That I may live and of Thy hope, may never be ashamed.
O, hold me safe, and ever in Thy will let me delight;
That for the statutes of my God I may have deep respect.

My God will set at naught all those who from His precepts stray;
For their own lies are all in vain, and they themselves deceive.
For all the wicked of the earth are counted but as dross;
And therefore do I love Thy law and testimonies pure.

Confession

O God, you know us—inside and out.
You know us in our darkest times and
when we overflow with false confidence in ourselves.
***We confess that, in both the highs and lows of life,
we sometimes forget that we are people of faith.***

(silence)

Forgive us and hear our prayers, O God.

Remind us of your faithful company and our calling as your people, we pray. Amen.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

All scripture is breathed out of God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Deuteronomy 4:15-20 ESV

- 15 “Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,
16 beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female,
17 the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,
18 the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth.
19 And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.
20 But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

Leviticus 17:7 ESV

- 7 So they shall no more sacrifice their sacrifices to goat demons, after whom they whore. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.

Deuteronomy 11:16-17 ESV

- 16 Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them;
17 then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you.

Ephesians 4:4-6 ESV

- 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#95 (Choral)

To The Hills I'll Lift Mine Eyes

Psalm 121

Dwight Armstrong

To the hills I'll lift mine eyes; Ah, from whence shall come my help?
All my help comes from the Lord, Who hath made the heaven and earth.
He will e'er be my guide, And thy foot shall never slide;
God Who keepeth Israel, Never slumbers, never sleeps.

God thy keeper still shall stand, as a shade on thy right hand;
Neither sun by day shall smite, nor the silent moon by night.
God shall guard from all ill, keep thy soul in safety still;
Both without and in thy door, He will keep thee ever more.

Anticle

Psalms 19:7-11 ESV

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
***be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer.***

God of grace, you have given us your law to lead us into life. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

You promise us rebirth and renewal. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

You invite us to give generously to those in need. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

You became poor so that we may be rich. We pray for the church in all places, that we may know the freedom of life in the Spirit.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

Your law guides us in our pilgrimage on earth. We pray for the world and for all who care for creation.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to my prayer.

Lord, I praise and thank you for who you are,
for what you give, for your matchless power and love,
for your wonderful counsel and encouragement
along life's paths.

With what amazing wisdom you have
designed all of life, in every place,
for every second of every day!
Thank you, Lord. There are no rivals.
Only you, the loving, living Lord. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May love light our way,
forgiveness lie behind us like a blessing,
and the God who is Creator,
never leave us or forsake us. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Third Commandment—

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, ...”

Third Day of the Week (Tuesday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
proclaim the good news of his
salvation from day to day.

*Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all the peoples.*

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all peoples praise you.

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

Luke 6:43-45 ESV

- 43 “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,
44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.
45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Thanksgiving

Deep within the struggles of living,
we discover your promises, O God.

We sing songs of hopefulness and,
with grateful hearts, face out next
journeys in your name.

***We see in gifts of life around us,
in sunshine on a leaf,
light in a dewdrop, and
the joyous flights of birds,
the symbols of greater possibilities.***

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Renew us, O Lord.

***We thank you for all which
you offer us. Amen.***

Song

#89 (Choral)

O Give Thanks Unto Our God

Psalm 118

Dwight Armstrong

O give thanks unto our God; blessed be His name
His mercy shall always endure; and His kindness never fails.
Let Israel confess to God, "His mercy always shall endure;
Let Aaron's house-hold now repeat, that His mercy never fails!

I called upon the Lord my God; in distress I cried!
He answered me and set me free; put your confidence in God.
With the Eternal on my side, why should I fear what men can do?
Trust not in princes nor in man; better far to trust in God!

All nations compassed me about, compassed me like bees;
But the Eternal is my strength; in His name I cut them off.
Open the gates of righteousness, where all the righteous enter in;
I shall not die but there shall live, and shall tell of all His works!

O give thanks unto our God; He has answered me!
He my salvation has become, He the chief, the corner-stone.

He by the builders was refused; He was rejected by His own.
God is the Lord who show'd us light; Bless-ed be the name of God!

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Let us hold to the standard of sound teaching that we have heard,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

***We will guard the good treasure entrusted to us,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.***

As we have been taught and have learned from his Word,
every being acting for him is called by his name and
***they carry his authority. The use of God's
name has power.***

Exodus 20:7 ESV

7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Deuteronomy 10:20 ESV

20 You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.

Leviticus 19:12 ESV

12 You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

Psalms 111:9 ESV

9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

Matthew 5:34-37 ESV

34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,
35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.
36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

James 3:5-9 ESV

- 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!
- 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.
- 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,
- 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
- 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#104 (Choral)

Lord, I Will Praise Thee!

Psalm 138

Dwight Armstrong

Lord, I will praise Thee with my whole heart;
I'll sing Thy praises before all the gods;
Worship and bow t'ward Thy holy place,
Praising Thy name for Thy kind love so true.

More than Thy name Thy Word is enlarged;
And when I cried in that day Thou didst hear;
Thou strengthened me with Thy strength, O Lord;
Kings of the earth will then hear, praising Thee.

Yes, they shall hear, O Lord, of thy ways;
Then shall they sing for Thy glory is great;
Though God is high the poor He respects;
But strikes the proud down from His sov'reign height.

Though in the midst of trouble I walk,
Thou wilt preserve with Thy right hand, my life;
Thou wilt fulfill Thy purpose for me;
Thy steadfast love will endure evermore.

Canticle

Exodus 19:3-8 ESV

- 3 while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:
- 4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
- 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;
- 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."
- 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
- 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

We Respond to Him

Intercessary Prayers

Who is like you among the gods, O Lord?
***Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises, working wonders?***

God of law and grace, the path of your commands is a source of delight.
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

It was your hand that shaped us. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You desire to bring release from bitterness and wrong. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You seek a fair balance between our abundance and others' need. We pray for the church in all places, that we may reflect your faithful love.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

In your justice you give life. We pray for the world, for those who are poor or in need.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Lord, we praise you that you have
the name above all names,
ever worthy of highest honor
and praise.
In your name is the revelation of the awe,

the magnificence, and the wonder of
your holiness and justice,
your grace and mercy,
your wisdom and power.
Make us a vessel of honor that
pleases you in all we do and say.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May God go before us and
stand behind us.
May he be in our living and
in our dying, and may he
speak deep within our
every moment. Amen.

*The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his
countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Third Commandment—

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, ...”

Third Day of the Week (Tuesday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your name for ever and ever.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
*and his faithfulness endures
from age to age.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

[Proverbs 6:16-19 ESV](#)

- 16 There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him:
17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil,
19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you that you gave us rules for life that go beyond moral regulations and call us toward a profound love for ourselves and all people.

***We thank you that you see deeply into
our hearts and invite us into a
journey toward truth.***

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Thanks be to you, O God,
for your life is abundant indeed! Amen.

Song

#7 (Choral)

How Excellent Is Thy Name!

Psalm 8

Dwight Armstrong

How excellent in all the earth, Lord our Lord is Thy name!
Who hast Thy glory far advanced Above the starry frame.
From mouths of babes and infants, Lord, Strength by Thee is ordained,
So that Thy enemies by crushed; Thy vengeful foes restrained.

When I look up unto the heavens Which Thine own fingers framed,
Unto the moon and to the stars, Which were by Thee ordained;
Then say I, what is man that Thou Should be mindful of him?
Or what, the son of man, that Thou So kind to him should be?

For Thou has made Him little less Than the angels above;
With glory and with dignity; With honor crowned his head.
Appointed Lord of all Thy works, All things under His feet;
All sheep and oxen, yea, and beasts That in the field do stray.

Confession

O merciful God, our lives are bowed in humble
reality before you now. We do not pretend,
even for one moment, that we are those who
could look you in the face and claim
to be other than ordinary.

*Love us as we are, we pray,
then bring to us your light for the journey.*

(silence)

Forgive us and hear our prayers, O God.
*Remind us of your faithful company and
our calling as your people, we pray. Amen.*

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

All scripture is breathed out of God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
*that the man of God may be competent,
equipped for every good work.*

Zechariah 8:16-17 ESV

- 16 These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace;
- 17 do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the LORD."

A Classic Example of Misuse of God's Name

1 Kings 21:10-13 ESV

- 10 And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death."
- 11 And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them,
- 12 they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people.
- 13 And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.

Acts 6:7-13 ESV

- 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.
- 8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.
- 9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.
- 10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.
- 11 Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."
- 12 And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council,
- 13 and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law,

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#21 (Choral)

Our God Is Good And Upright

Psalm 25

Dwight Armstrong

Our God is good and upright; the way He'll sinners show.
The meek in judgment He will guide, and make His paths to know.
The whole paths of the Lord are truth and mercy sure
To those that keep His covenant and testimonies pure.

Now, for Thine own name's sake, O Lord, I Thee entreat
To pardon mine iniquity, for it is very great.
What man is he that fears the Lord and doth Him serve?
Him shall He teach of His own way; the way that he should choose.

His soul shall dwell at ease; and his posterity
Shall flourish still and of the earth inheritors shall be.

With those that fear Him is the secret of the Lord;
The knowledge of His covenant He will to them afford.

Canticle

Psalms 19:7-11 ESV

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
***be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer.***

God of law and grace, the path of your commands is a source of delight.
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

It was your hand that shaped us. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You desire to bring release from bitterness and wrong. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You seek a fair balance between our abundance and others' need. We pray for the church in all places, that we may reflect your faithful love.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

In your justice you give life. We pray for the world, for those who are poor or in need.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

May we never treat you or your name,
O Lord, in any way that is disrespectful,
dishonest, dishonorable, or
shameful. Help us to always be
on guard against any actions or
words that would treat you in
a thoughtless or flippant way.
Blessed be your name forever.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May the dry earth be renewed
with living water and the flowers
of life be seen beside our feet.
May the dove of God's Holy Spirit
fly in freedom above us and
bring love to birth in every place. Amen.

*The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his
countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Fourth Commandment—

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Fourth Day of the Week (Wednesday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

Happy are they who fear the Lord,
and who follow in his ways.

*You shall eat the fruit of your labor;
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.*

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

How sweet are your words to my taste!
They are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

*Through your commandments
I gain understanding.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

Hebrews 4:9-11 ESV

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,
10 for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as
God did from his.

11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by
the same sort of disobedience.

Thanksgiving

O Lord, the wonder of your life
with us breaks over us in waves
of refreshing living waters.

We are so thankful that there is far more to be than we will ever know.

We thank you for persevering with us each day and on into our futures, inviting discoveries for living which go beyond where we have been.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Renew us, O Lord.

We thank you for all which you offer us. Amen.

Song

#107 (Blue)

Remember the Sabbath Day

Exodus 20:8-10; Isaiah 58:13-14; Mark 2:27-28

Ross Jutsum

In six days God made earth and seas and heavens.
He sanctified and blessed the seventh day;
God hallowed it and rested from His labor,
So we can worship Him and follow His way.
Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy:
A rest for the people of God, a true delight.
The Son of Man, He reigns as Lord of the Sabbath
And shows His brethren how to do what's right.

Six days to work, six days to do our labor;
Christ said He made the Sabbath just for man.
The seventh day of rest, the Lord, He gave us
The Sabbath to remind us all of His plan.
Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy:
A rest for the people of God, a true delight.
The Son of Man, He reigns as Lord of the Sabbath
And shows His brethren how to do what's right.

We keep this weekly Holy Day with honor;
He raised us up to ride earth's highest peak
And gave us blessings promised to our fathers.
We worship God the seventh day of the week.
Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy:
A rest for the people of God, a true delight.
The Son of Man, He reigns as Lord of the Sabbath
And shows His brethren how to do what's right.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Let us hold to the standard of sound teaching that we have heard,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

***We will guard the good treasure entrusted to us,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.***

Exodus 20:8-11 ESV

- 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,
10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.
11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 31:12-14 ESV

- 12 And the LORD said to Moses,
13 "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.
14 You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Ezekiel 20:21-24 ESV

- 21 But the children rebelled against me. They did not walk in my statutes and were not careful to obey my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; they profaned my Sabbaths. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the wilderness.
- 22 But I withheld my hand and acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out.
- 23 Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them through the countries,
- 24 because they had not obeyed my rules, but had rejected my statutes and profaned my Sabbaths, and their eyes were set on their fathers' idols.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#105 (Blue)

Proclaim Holy Convocations *Leviticus 23:4; Deuteronomy 30* *Ross Jutsum*

Our god spoke to Moses, saying, Declare unto Israel
The feasts of the Lord, portraying my plan for mankind I foretell.
Proclaim holy convocations, the time and seasons I give;
And teach them my revelation so you and your seed might live.

Six days shall your work be finished; the seventh, the Sabbath rest.
No work shall be undertaken till sunset has come in the west.
Proclaim holy convocations, the time and seasons I give;
And teach them my revelation so you and your seed might live.

God gave us the holy feast days to picture His master plan,
To show us His love forever, His love for the fam'ly of man.
Proclaim holy convocations, the time and seasons I give;
And teach them my revelation so you and your seed might live.

Canticle

Exodus 19:3-8 ESV

- 3 while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:
- 4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
- 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;
- 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."
- 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
- 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Who is like you among the gods, O Lord?

***Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises, working wonders?***

Trustworthy God, with your law you give us life. In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayers.

You are our rock and rescuer. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Your decrees bring wisdom, clarity, and justice. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You offer to all the repentance that leads to life. We pray for the church in all places, that we may bear witness to your reign of justice, peace, and joy.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Your truth lasts from age to age. We pray for the world, for all who are ensnared in greed, violence, and oppression.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Lord, thank you for the Sabbath
and all that it means.
Your order in creation is awesome;
it includes the natural rest that
you give to plants and animals,
and the opportunity for people to rest.
We praise you for the pattern of work
and rest that you gave at creation,
by working diligently for six days

and then resting on one.
May our lives be a testimony of
resting in your work that
you have done for your creation.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May the voice of the Creator
sing in the silences,
bring us the Word
from the margins, and
may the warmth of his Spirit
touch our hearts as we walk. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Fourth Commandment—

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Fourth Day of the Week (Wednesday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

Your way, O God, is holy;

who is as great as our God?

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Your loving-kindness is
greater than the heavens,

*and your faithfulness
reaches to the clouds.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

Isaiah 58:13-14 NKJV

13 “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, *From* doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy *day* of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking *your own* words,

14 Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you for the richness
of your way, for the rocks and

the grassy stretches, the torrents of
its waters and the still pools of peace.
We thank you for the noises of its
newness and the rest in familiar places,
***for the heat of life's good passion
and the coolness of its restful plains.***

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Thank you, O God,
for all that you bring to us. Amen.

Song

#101 (Choral)

Praise God's Name!

Psalm 135

Dwight Armstrong

Hallelujah! Praise God's Name! Praise His Name, of whom you serve!
You who stand within God's house shall praise His Name within
His courts!

Praise the Lord, for He is good; Sing your praises to His Name!
God has chosen for Himself, as His prized possession Israel.

God is great above all gods, What He pleases that He does;
In the heav'n and on the earth; in the seas and depths of oceans wide;
Raises mists o'er all the earth; Sends the lightning and the rain;
And in Egypt He it was struck the first born both of man and beast.

He sent signs and wonders great In the midst of Egypt's land;
Many nations did He strike; Many mighty kings for Israel.
Great Your Name Eternal God; Great Your fame for ever more!
Both endure to ev'ry age and to generations yet to come.

Confession

O God, when your Word disturbs us,
we are sometimes tempted to cover our ears.

When it comes to us in strong challenges,
and our hearts are afraid, we sometimes
turn to sweeter sounds.

***Stay with us, O Lord;
come to us in grace for we are
your very human people.***

(silence)

Forgive us and hear our prayers, O God.

***Remind us of your faithful company and
our calling as your people, we pray. Amen.***

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

All scripture is breathed out of God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
***that the man of God may be competent,
equipped for every good work.***

Jeremiah 17:19-27 NKJV

- 19 Thus the LORD said to me: "Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, by which the kings of Judah come in and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem;
- 20 "and say to them, 'Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, who enter by these gates.
- 21 'Thus says the LORD: "Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring *it* in by the gates of Jerusalem;
- 22 "nor carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath day, nor do any work, but hallow the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.
- 23 "But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear nor receive instruction.
- 24 "And it shall be, if you heed Me carefully," says the LORD, "to bring no burden through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but hallow the Sabbath day, to do no work in it,

- 25 "then shall enter the gates of this city kings and princes sitting on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their princes, accompanied by the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall remain forever.
- 26 "And they shall come from the cities of Judah and from the places around Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin and from the lowland, from the mountains and from the South, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and incense, bringing sacrifices of praise to the house of the LORD.
- 27 "But if you will not heed Me to hallow the Sabbath day, such as not carrying a burden when entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched." " "

Isaiah 66:18-23 NKJV

- 18 "For I *know* their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory.
- 19 "I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: *to* Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, *to* the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.
- 20 "Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.
- 21 "And I will also take some of them for priests *and* Levites," says the LORD.
- 22 "For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain.
- 23 And it shall come to pass *That* from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#112 (Choral)

Praise Ye The Lord!

Psalm 148

Dwight Armstrong

Praise ye the Lord! Praise ye the Lord!
Praise from the heavens and praise in the heights.
Praise Him, ye angels, praise Him, ye hosts,
And praise Him ye sun, moon and stars in the heights.
Heaven of heavens, waters above;
Praise the Eternal let all praise His Name!
When He commanded they were created,
And by a decree fixed their bounds evermore!

Praise ye the Lord! Ye mammals and deeps too,
Fire, hail and wind storms fulfilling His word!
Vapours and snow all hills too, and mountains,
All cedars and fruitful trees, let's praise His Name!
Wild beasts and cattle, birds and all reptiles,
Earth's kings and judges, all people and chiefs;
Young men and maidens, old men and children;
All praise ye the Name of our God evermore!

Praise ye the Lord! Praise ye the Lord!
Praise from the heavens and praise in the heights!
Praise Him ye angels Praise Him ye hosts,
His glory is higher than heaven above;
God lifted high the horn of His people;
He has exalted the praise of His saints;
They are a people near unto God
The children of Israel, praise ye the Lord!

Anticle

[Psalms 19:7-11 ESV](#)

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
***be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer.***

Trustworthy God, with your law you give us life. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

You are our rock and rescuer. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Your decrees bring wisdom, clarity, and justice. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You offer to all the repentance that leads to life. We pray for the church in all places, that we may bear witness to your reign of justice, peace, and joy.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Your truth lasts from age to age. We pray for the world, for all who are ensnared in greed, violence, and oppression.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

O Lord, we praise you for the way
you lead us to focus on you, to center
our attention on you and your ways,
to worship you as we walk with you.
May we live in the reality of the Sabbath
rest you have given and walk in the
pattern of rest that you have given in creation.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May wisdom speak into every silence,
the Creator transform every possibility,
and wait in love in every wilderness. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Fifth Commandment—

“Honor your father and your mother, ...”

Fifth Day of the Week (Thursday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

The Lord is near to those
who call upon him,
*to all who call upon
him faithfully.*

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Sing to him,
sing praise to him,
*and speak of all his
marvelous works.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 82:1-6 ESV](#) (A Psalm of Asaph.)

- 1 God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
- 2 “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?
Selah
- 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
- 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
- 5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- 6 I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you;

Thanksgiving

We come in thankfulness to you,
O God, for every evidence of
your patience and generosity as
you watch us in our wandering
journey of life—moving in and out
of the true way like sheep who
sometimes follow the call of the
Shepherd but often go our own way.

***We never cease to wonder at
your love for us.***

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

We never cease to wonder at
your love for us, even us,
who are your very human company.
Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.

Song

#50 (Choral)

God Is My Rock, My Salvation

Psalm 61

Dwight Armstrong

God is my rock, my salvation, my hope
My soul in silence
waits for my God alone;

He is my fort, I shall not be removed;
He is my refuge, my
high tower of strength.

Rescue shall come from my God alone,
and I shall never
be greatly removed.

Still, O my soul, wait in silence for God;
My hope and refuge
is in my God alone;

He is my Rock, my salvation and strength;
With God alone
shall my deliverance be.

How long will men take pleasure in sin? They plot and threaten the life of the king.

Vain men are they, delighting in craft; Their lips they bless with,
but they curse inwardly;
Low men or high, both are less than a breath; Trust and rely
not on extortion and gain.
Kindness and pow'r belong to our God; He shall reward
ev'ry man for his works.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Let us hold to the standard of sound teaching that we have heard, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

We will guard the good treasure entrusted to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Exodus 20:12 ESV

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16 ESV

16 "'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Ephesians 6:1 ESV

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Colossians 3:20 ESV

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

1 Peter 3:1-7 ESV

1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,
2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

- 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—
- 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.
- 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,
- 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.
- 7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Corinthians 11:3 ESV

- 3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#64 (Choral)

Rise and Judge, Eternal One!

Psalm 82, 83

Dwight Armstrong

In the midst of magistrates, God His judgment gives.
 This He asks, how long will you Thus unjustly judge,
 To respect the wicked’s cause And the righteous blame?
 Judge the poor and fatherless; Judge them righteously.

Earth’s foundations have been moved; All in darkness walk.
 Judges of the earth know not Nor will understand;
 God has said they are like gods, Sons of God Most High;
 But they all shall die like men; And as princes fall.

Keep not silence, O my God; Your foes plot their schemes;
 That the name of Israel May be blotted out;
 Put them all to shame, O God As they would Your sons,
 Rise and judge, Eternal One, For the earth is Yours!

Let men know that You, O Lord, The Eternal One,
Are Most High o'er all the earth; Let men know Your Name!
They know not nor understand; They shall die like men;
Rise and judge, Eternal One, For the earth is Yours!

Canticle

Exodus 19:3-8 ESV

- 3 while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:
- 4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
- 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;
- 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."
- 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
- 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

We Respond to Him

Intercessary Prayers

Who is like you among the gods, O Lord?
***Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises, working wonders?***

Sustaining God, your promise upholds us and gives us life. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

You are our shelter and shield. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You call us to hold fast to what is good. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

In your Spirit's presence is the power of forgiveness. We pray for the church in all places, that we may daily follow in the footsteps of Christ.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You teach us to hate what is false. We pray for the world, for those in positions of power and authority.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Thank you, Lord, for the fathers and mothers that you gave us, for the love you showed through them and for their love and care. Thank you that you are the perfect Father who is even now preparing the perfect home

for us and all our brothers and sisters in Christ,
from every tribe and tongue and nation.
What a family gathering that will be forever!
Thank you for allowing us to be in your family.
May we live and speak to honor you and to
honor our earthly father and mother as well.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May our lives soar high in winds of joy,
our spirits rise as we journey with our God,
and our minds be challenged by truth
beyond our imagining. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Sixth Commandment—

“You shall not murder.”

Fifth Day of the Week (Thursday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord,

for you repay everyone

according to his deeds.

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

Mark 7:14-23 ESV

14 And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand:

15 There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.”

16 [If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.]

17 And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable.

18 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him,

19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (...)

20 And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him.

21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,

- 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.
23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you that you lift our hearts in unexpected moments; that, just when we believe that we are traveling alone, you inspire others to give us hope and support.

We thank you for our friends here who know our journeying and often stand beside us as we go.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

We thank you, also, for the strangers along the way who see what we are trying to do, or be, and who give us encouragement.

Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.

Song

#41 (Choral)

In Thy Loving Kindness, Lord

Psalm 51

Dwight Armstrong

In thy loving kindness Lord, be merciful to me;
In compassion great blot out all iniquity.
Wash me thoroughly from sin, from all guilt cleanse Thou me;
For transgressions I confess; sins I ever see.

‘Gainst Thee only have I sinned, done evil in Thy sight,
That Thou speaking may be just, and in judging right.
My iniquities blot out, my sin hide from Thy view,
And in me a clean heart make, spirit right renew.

From Thy gracious presence, Lord, O cast me not away,
And Thy Holy Spirit take not from me I pray.
Joy which Thy salvation brings again to me restore;
With Thy Spirit free do Thou keep me evermore.

Sacrifice dost thou not want, else would I give it Thee,
And with offering shalt Thou not delighted be.
For a broken spirit is to God a sacrifice,
And a broken, contrite heart, Thou wilt not despise.

Confession

O God, when your Word disturbs us,
we are sometimes tempted to cover our ears.
When it comes to us in strong challenges,
and our hearts are afraid, we sometimes
turn to sweeter sounds.

***Stay with us, O Lord;
come to us in grace for we are
your very human people.***

(silence)

Forgive us and hear our prayers, O God.
***Remind us of your faithful company and
our calling as your people, we pray. Amen.***

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

All scripture is breathed out of God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
***that the man of God may be competent,
equipped for every good work.***

Exodus 20:13 ESV

13 "You shall not murder."

The First Murder

Genesis 4:1-8 ESV

- 1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD."
- 2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.
- 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,
- 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,
- 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.
- 6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"
- 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."
- 8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 9:5-6 ESV

- 5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.
- 6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

Exodus 21:12-14 ESV

- 12 "Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death.
- 13 But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee.
- 14 But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.

Matthew 5:21-22 ESV

- 21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'
- 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

1 John 3:8-12 ESV

- 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.
- 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.
- 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.
- 11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.
- 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#110 (Choral)

Lord, Teach Me That I May Know

Psalm 143

Dwight Armstrong

Lord, teach me that I may know of the way where I should go;
For to Thee I lift my soul, set me free from all my foes.
Unto Thee I flee to hide me, teach me now Thy will to do;
For Thou Eternal, art my God. Lead me by Thy Spirit good!

Bring my soul from trouble and for Thy name's sake quicken me;
Lead me to the land of refuge, and for Thy mercy's sake
Cut off all my foes, destroy them, they which do afflict my soul;
O Thou Eternal, righteous God; for I am Thy servant, Lord.

Canticle

Psalms 19:7-11 ESV

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
***be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer.***

Sustaining God, your promise upholds us and gives us life. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

You are our shelter and shield. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You call us to hold fast to what is good. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

In your Spirit's presence is the power of forgiveness. We pray for the church in all places, that we may daily follow in the footsteps of Christ.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You teach us to hate what is false. We pray for the world, for those in positions of power and authority.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

O Lord, thank you for revealing the incredible value of a single life and your desire to see us show genuine love and care to one another.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May wisdom speak into every silence,
the Creator transform every possibility,
and wait in love in every wilderness. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments The Seventh Commandment— “You shall not commit adultery.”

Sixth Day of the Week (Friday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

Among the gods there is
none like you, O Lord,
nor anything like your works.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness and
come before his presence with a song.

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ESV

- 14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?
- 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?
- 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,
- 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Thanksgiving

Our thanks to you, O God,
streams forth from all creation,
resounding from the hills and
rising from the valleys of life.

***Our thanks sound in hymns of praise
and prayers that trust you with our days.***

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

There are no words to tell you, O God,
***of the grandeur of the hope that
lives in us because of your kindness. Amen.***

Song

#66 (Choral)

O Lord of Hosts, My King, My God!

Psalm 84

Dwight Armstrong

O Eternal, Lord of Hosts, How my heart cries out for thee.
How my soul longs for thy courts, And for Thy tabernacles dear.
As the sparrow finds a home, As the swallow finds a nest;
Blest are those who dwell with Thee O Lord of Hosts, my King,
my God!

In Thy house, Lord, all are blest; They shall ever sing Thy praise!
Blest and happy is the man Whose strength is in the Lord his God.
They all go from strength to strength, All appear before their God,
God of Jacob, hear my prayer, O Lord of Hosts, my King, my God!

Now behold, O God, our shield; Look on Thine anointed ones;
Hear my prayer, O Lord of Hosts, O God of Jacob, now give ear;
Better one day in Thy house, Than a thousand days without;
Better one day in Thy house, O Lord of Hosts, my King, my God!

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Let us hold to the standard of sound teaching that we have heard, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

We will guard the good treasure entrusted to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Exodus 20:14 ESV

14 "You shall not commit adultery."

Ephesians 5:22-33 ESV

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

30 because we are members of his body.

31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Matthew 5:27-32 ESV

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

- 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.
- 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.
- 31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'
- 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 19:1-12 ESV

- 1 Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.
- 2 And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.
- 3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"
- 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,
- 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?
- 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."
- 7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?"
- 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.
- 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."
- 10 The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry."
- 11 But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given.
- 12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#72 (Choral)

O Come and Let Us Worship Him

Psalm 95

Dwight Armstrong

O come, let us in songs to God, Our cheerful voices raise;
In joyful shouts let us the Rock Of our salvation praise!
Before His presence let us come With praise and thankful voice;
Let us sing psalms to Him with grace, And make a joyful noise!

For God, a mighty God and King; Above all Gods He is;
The depths of earth are in His hand, The strength of hills is His.
To Him the spacious sea belongs, For He the same did make;
The dry land also from His hands Its form at first did take.

O come, and let us worship Him, Let us bow down withal;
And on our knees, before the Lord, Our Maker, let us fall.
Because He only is our God; And we His people are;
And of His pasture, we are sheep In His Almighty care.

Canticle

[Exodus 19:3-8 ESV](#)

- 3 while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:
- 4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
- 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;
- 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."
- 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
- 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Who is like you among the gods, O Lord?

***Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises, working wonders?***

God of peace, in love you hear us when we call. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

You are close; your commands are true. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You love those who give cheerfully. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You give your people the gift of your Spirit. We pray for the church in all places, that we may speak boldly for Christ.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Your law is far from the unjust who bring harm. We pray for the world, for peacemakers and for all who serve in the name of Christ.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Lord, thank you for your design
for the home and family.
We pray that we would walk
always in the purity you desire,
seeking to be all you want us
to be. Empower us to faithfully
follow you, showing unconditional love,
enhancing purity in the lives of others,
forgiving when offended, and building
relationships with eternity in view.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

***C*harge and Benediction**

May all people be embraced
in the love of God,
all creation move in faith
toward true community,
and our life together here shine
with the hope to which we are called. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Eighth Commandment—

“You shall not steal.”

Sixth Day of the Week (Friday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness adorns your house,
O Lord, for ever and for evermore.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Be exalted, O Lord, in your might;
we will sing and praise your power.

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

1 Chronicles 29:11-16 ESV

- 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.
- 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.
- 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.
- 14 “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.
- 15 For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding.

16 O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

Thanksgiving

We celebrate your wholeness
and your holiness, O God.
We give thanks that we never
reach the boundaries of your life
and love but that we are forever
discovering fresh Good News that
enriches and expands our life.

***We celebrate the delight of finding
you where and when we least expect it.***

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Praise be to you, O God,
the God of all eternity. Amen.

Song

#40 (Choral)

Give Thanks and Offer Praise

Psalm 50

Dwight Armstrong

Hear, O my people, and I'll speak, O Israel by name.
Against you I will testify, for God your God I am.
The fowls are all to me well known, that mountains high do yield;
I also claim as all my own The wild beasts of the field.

Pay all your vows to God most high; Give thanks and offer praise,
And when the day of trouble comes I'll hear and answer you.
Think you that I would eat of flesh or ask for sacrifice?
But rather unto Me your God, give thanks and offer praise.

But to the wicked man God says, Why mention my commands?
Why take my compact on your lips and cast my words behind?

Mark this, you who forget your God, and my instruction hate;
Therefore shall none deliver you, for this is my reproof.

Confession

There are times, O God,
when we would like to limit you,
to confine you within the smallness
of our own needs or visions for life.
We presume to imagine that we
can possess you in ways that
are to our advantage.

***We grieve our failures, O God. Show us again
the sacred dimensions of your grace.***

(silence)

When we offer to the world far less
than you offer to us —

***show us again the sacred dimensions
of your grace. This we pray in faith. Amen.***

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

All scripture is breathed out of God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
***that the man of God may be competent,
equipped for every good work.***

Exodus 20:15 ESV

15 "You shall not steal."

Leviticus 6:1-5 ESV

1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

- 2 “If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against the LORD by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor
- 3 or has found something lost and lied about it, swearing falsely—in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby—
- 4 if he has sinned and has realized his guilt and will restore what he took by robbery or what he got by oppression or the deposit that was committed to him or the lost thing that he found
- 5 or anything about which he has sworn falsely, he shall restore it in full and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to whom it belongs on the day he realizes his guilt.

Exodus 22:7-8 ESV

- 7 “If a man gives to his neighbor money or goods to keep safe, and it is stolen from the man’s house, then, if the thief is found, he shall pay double.
- 8 If the thief is not found, the owner of the house shall come near to God to show whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor’s property.

Malachi 3:8-12 ESV

- 8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions.
- 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.
- 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.
- 11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.
- 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#121 (Choral)

Not Many Wise Men Now Are Called

1 Corinthians 1

Dwight Armstrong

Not many wise men now are called, not many noble brethren,
Not many mighty chosen ones, for you see your calling:
Sons of God, you are called, not because of greatness;
Even the wisdom of mankind is to God but foolish.

God chose the foolish of the world; He chose the weak and base things;
He chose the things which are despised, that no flesh should glory.
Sons of God, you are called, not because of greatness;
You who are called and now in Christ shall confound the mighty.

Even the foolishness of God, wiser by far than man is;
Even the weakness of our God, stronger far than man is.
Sons of God, you are called, not because of greatness;
Let them who glory boast in Christ, not in their own greatness.

Canticle

[Psalms 19:7-11 ESV](#)

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
- 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
***be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer.***

God of peace, in love you hear us when we call. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

You are close; your commands are true. We pray for ourselves and
those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You love those who give cheerfully. We pray for our community and for
our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You give your people the gift of your Spirit. We pray for the church in
all places, that we may speak boldly for Christ.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Your law is far from the unjust who bring harm. We pray for the world,
for peacemakers and for all who serve in the name of Christ.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

O Lord, thank you for your honest heart
and the way you want all to live.
We praise you for being our provider
and rewarder, and we look forward
to your rewards for our faithful service.
May we continually use what you have
entrusted to us in ways that are pleasing
to you, never stealing or wasting any resources.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May we be witnesses to the gentle
heart of God, the loving parent who
holds the world in grace, and to his
joyful Spirit who lights the world with hope. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Ninth Commandment—
“You shall not bear false witness ...”

Seventh Day of the Week (Sabbath/Saturday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

He who dwells in the
shelter of the Most High,
*abides under the shadow
of the Almighty.*

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Glory in his holy name;
*let the hearts of those
who seek the Lord rejoice.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

Psalms 15:1-5 ESV

- 1 *A Psalm of David.* O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
- 2 He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;
- 3 who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
- 4 in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
- 5 who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you for the signs of your presence—the beauty of healing and the wonder of lives changed through compassion. We thank you for transforming justice and the witness of prophetic acts of courage in the face of injustice.

We thank you for your kindness when we keep stubbornly demanding your attention.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

We celebrate all that rises up in truth ***and announces that you are among us and beside us as we try to walk your way. Amen.***

Song

#89 (Choral)

O Give Thanks Unto Our God

Psalm 118

Dwight Armstrong

O give thanks unto our God; blessed be His name
His mercy shall always endure; and His kindness never fails.
Let Israel confess to God, "His mercy always shall endure;
Let Aaron's house-hold now repeat, His mercy never fails!

I called upon the Lord my God; in distress I cried!
He answered me and set me free; put your confidence in God.
With the Eternal on my side, why should I fear what men can do?
Trust not in princes nor in man; better far to trust in God!

All nations compassed me about, compassed me like bees;
But the Eternal is my strength; in His name I cut them off.

Open the gates of righteousness, where all the righteous enter in;
I shall not die but there shall live, and shall tell of all His works!

O give thanks unto our God; He has answered me!
He my salvation has become, He the chief, the corner-stone.
He by the builders was refused; He was rejected by His own.
God is the Lord who show'd us light; Bless-ed be the name of God!

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Let us hold to the standard of sound teaching that we have heard,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

***We will guard the good treasure entrusted to us,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.***

Exodus 20:16 ESV

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Exodus 23:1-3, 6-9 ESV

- 1 "You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.
- 2 You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice,
- 3 nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit.
(...)
- 6 "You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit.
- 7 Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked.
- 8 And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right.
- 9 "You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19:11-12, 15-18 ESV

- 11 "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.
- 12 You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.
(...)

- 15 "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.
- 16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.
- 17 "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.
- 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Psalms 101:5-7 ESV

- 5 Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure.
- 6 I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.
- 7 No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#45 (Choral)

But as for Me, I'll Call on God

Psalm 55

Dwight Armstrong

'Twas not a foe who did deride, for that I could endure;
No hater thus who rose in pride, else would I hide secure.
But thou it was, my friend and guide; we did as equals meet;
We walked to God's house side by side, and counsel blended sweet.

His speech more smooth than butter was, yet in his heart was war;
More soft than oil his words appear, yet sharp as drawn swords
were they.

But Lord Thou will in judgment sit and bring them down to woe;
And in the deep and darksome pit, in ruin lay them low.

Death shall them seize, and to the tomb, a-live they shall go down;
For wickedness is in their home; among them abound their sins.
But as for me, I'll call on God; the Lord will safety give;
He'll hear me when I cry aloud, at morning, noon and night.

Canticle

Exodus 19:3-8 ESV

- 3 while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:
- 4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
- 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;
- 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."
- 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
- 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

We Respond to Him

Intercessary Prayers

Who is like you among the gods, O Lord?

***Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises, working wonders?***

Merciful and gracious God, you teach us by your word. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

Your hand is ready to help us. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You give us the ministry of testifying to the good news of your grace. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be faithful in solidarity across generations and geography.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You forgive iniquity and transgression. We pray for the world, for our enemies and for those who are in conflict.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Lord, we praise you for being the God of truth and for treasuring truth in the hearts of your children—in every relationship and in every interaction. Thank you for giving us the truth of your Word and your Spirit of Truth to lead us. Thank you for teaching

us and leading us to tell the truth and deal honestly with others.
May we never be slanderers or bear false witness against
a neighbor. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May the Spirit of God flame within us,
and wisdom guard and guide us.
May we never walk alone but be held
safe forever in the love of the
Spirit of God. Amen.

*The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his
countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

Num. 6:24-26

ORDINARY TIME — Week 3

The Ten Commandments

The Tenth Commandment—

“You shall not covet ...”

Seventh Day of the Week (Sabbath/Saturday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

The Lord is faithful
in all his words and
merciful in all his deeds.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name.

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

[Ephesians 5:3-5 ESV](#)

- 3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.
- 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.
- 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Thanksgiving

As we look at our feet treading
the earth in human frailty,
we give thanks to you, O God.
We thank you for visions of

a different life, and a greater journey.
***We thank you for the Messiah,
who was never deterred from his
glorious pathway by temptations
and betrayals, or by deathly
forces and pain.***

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Thanks be to you, O God,
***for all that could be within
our life, if we will but choose it. Amen.***

Song

#105 (Choral)

Where Shall I Go From Your Spirit, O God?

Psalm 139

Dwight Armstrong

Lord, You have searched and have compassed my path;
You, O Eternal God, know all my ways.
You are before me and you are behind;
There is no word on my tongue that You miss.
My downfall and my uprising You know;
Your knowledge, Lord, is so far above me.

Where shall I go from Your Spirit, O God?
Where shall I flee from Your presence, O Lord?
If up to heaven, behold You are there;
If down to hell, You would soon find me there;
If I take wings or dwell far out at sea,
Even Your right hand shall hold me, O God.

Though darkness comes and the night covers me.
Even the darkness hides nothing from God.
Yea, even darkness shall shine as the day;
To the Eternal they both are alike.
He knew my life ere before I was born;
How vast, O God, is the sum of Your thoughts!

Confession

O God of shining life,
if we have become fixed in
our ways of seeing you,
sure of who you are and
what you bring to us,
putting one foot after the other,
following the paths dictated by
the certainties of our souls:
***challenge us again and transform
us with your forgiveness, we pray.***

(silence)

When we climb mountains after you,
and then fail to bring you down to our
earth in excitement and hope,
***challenge us again and transform
us with your forgiveness, we pray. Amen.***

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

All scripture is breathed out of God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
***that the man of God may be competent,
equipped for every good work.***

[Exodus 20:17 ESV](#)

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

[Deuteronomy 5:21 ESV](#)

21 "And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his

female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

Micah 2:1-5 ESV

- 1 Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand.
- 2 They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.
- 3 Therefore thus says the LORD: behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks, and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be a time of disaster.
- 4 In that day they shall take up a taunt song against you and moan bitterly, and say, "We are utterly ruined; he changes the portion of my people; how he removes it from me! To an apostate he allots our fields."
- 5 Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the LORD.

Matthew 6:19-24 ESV

- 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,
- 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.
- 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,
- 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
- 24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#91 (Choral)

For Thy Law is Truth and Love

Psalm 119

Dwight Armstrong

With my whole heart have I cried to Thee; O Eternal hear my prayer;
For I keep Thy law and meditate On Thy precepts night and day.
I am up before the dawn to pray; For my hope is in Thy word.
Hear my voice according to Thy great love Save me Lord, and
quicken me.

My pursuers come with malice near; And Thy law they do not keep;
But Eternal, Thou art near to me And all Thy commands are true;
Thou hast founded them forever, Lord, They are valid for all time.
Look on my affliction, deliver me; For I love Thy law, O God.

I do not forget Thy law, O God; How I love all Thy commands;
But the wicked do not seek Thy law And Thy way is far from them.
Many are my persecutors, Lord, Yet I never turned from Thee.
O consider how I do love Thy law; For Thy law is truth and love.

Canticle

Psalms 19:7-11 ESV

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
- 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

We Respond to Him

Intercessory Prayers

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
***be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer.***

Merciful and gracious God, you teach us by your word. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayers.

Your hand is ready to help us. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You give us the ministry of testifying to the good news of your grace. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be faithful in solidarity across generations and geography.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

You forgive iniquity and transgression. We pray for the world, for our enemies and for those who are in conflict.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(add open prayers)

Give ear, O Lord,
to our prayers.

Lord, thank you for your providence
at work in our lives and for your
daily provision evident all around.
We know we have been guilty of
coveting too many times.
We have failed to be thankful
and to give thanks for all your abundant
gifts in every area—spiritually,
physically, materially, and relationally.
You have blessed us in thousands of ways!
Teach us to guard our desires and
let us not be enticed by the foolish and
futile lures of the world and the flesh.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May we see the hands of the Messiah
stretched out in welcome to us.
May we see the light of God's Spirit
shining upon the way before us, and
may we hear the voice of God who
calls us to himself. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26