

Rethinking Religion: Rethinking the Worth of Worship

Person A never attends worship. He can't see the point. Person B attends every week out of a slavish sense of obligation. Her mind wanders during the services, for she views the activities of worship merely as tasks for her to complete. Who is worse off? Rather than debating the point, let us just admit neither understand the true worth of worship. And that is exactly what Satan wants.

Many think worship is about what we do for God. It is the other way around. As we gather around Word and sacrament, the Spirit moves us to love and trust in God above all things. Moved by the cross of Christ, we bow down before our God. We commune with him. And that's exactly what God wants.

Opening Hymn

Open, Lovely Doors CW²¹ 912



1 O - pen, love - ly doors, and let me come in - to God's
 2 With a song I've come to greet you; come to me, dear
 3 You de - serve my deep - est rev - 'rence; sanc - ti - fy me



house to - day! This is where great joys be - set me
 Lord, I pray. Where you let your peo - ple meet you
 through and through. Let my wor - ship in your pres - ence



more than I can sing or say. Here I view God's
 heav - en's light is bright as day. Let my heart your
 clear - ly show my love for you. Lord of mer - cy,



glo - rious face, see his light, re - ceive his grace.
 heav - en be; Sav - ior, make your home in me.
 hear my cry: lift my heart to you on high!

Text: tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737, abr.
 Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680
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 Tune: Public domain

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.



**MORRISON
 ZION
 LUTHERAN**
 Wisconsin Evangelical
 Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God
 as we
Gather
 around the Gospel
 to help people
Grow
 in the Gospel
 and
Go
 with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Salvation unto Us Has Come CW 390:2-3

2 What God does in his law de - mand And none to him
3 It is a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God his law
can ren - der Brings wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand
has giv - en That sin - ners can them - selves re - deem
For man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has
And by their works gain heav - en. The law is
not those pure de - sires The spir - it of the
but a mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Salvation unto Us Has Come CW 390:5-6

5 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us
sal - va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad
And build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a -
lone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my
life in - deed, For you have paid my ran - som.

6 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by his grace—
All glory to his merit!
O Triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed your saving love;
Your blessed name be hallowed!

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: ES IST DAS HEIL (87 87 887) *Ellich Cristlich liden*, Wittenberg, 1524, alt.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Be Seated

First Lesson

Exodus 20:1-17

The Ten Commandments teach us that God is to be worshiped above all. Why? He is the God who brought us out of slavery.

¹And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

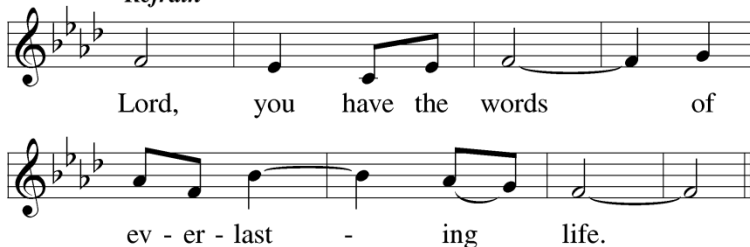
¹⁶“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 19 CW

Refrain



Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

Psalm tone



The heavens declare the glory of God;*
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Their voice goes out into all the earth,*
their words to the ends of the world.

Refrain

The law of the LORD is perfect,*
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,*
giving light to the eyes.

They are more precious than gold;*
they are sweeter than honey.

By them is your servant taught;*
in keeping them there is great reward.

Refrain

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart*
be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com.
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Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Whatever it is you trust most, that is what you truly worship. Some worship intelligence. Others worship power. May we worship Christ for what he did on the cross.

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;

the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”^[Isaiah 29:14]

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14, 15)

Stand

Gospel

John 2:13-22

Jesus restores his Father's house to what it was supposed to be: a place of worship for all people.

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”^[Psalm 69:9]

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

Salvation unto Us Has Come CW 390:1,4

1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace
4 Yet as the law must be ful - filled Or we must die
and fa - vor. Good works can - not a - vert our doom;
de - spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled,
They help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to
Our hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for
Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
us the law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's
world a - tone; He is the one Re - deem - er.
venge - ance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484-1551, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: ES IST DAS HEIL (87 87 887) *Etlich Cristlich liden*, Wittenberg, 1524, alt.

Sermon

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer of the Church

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

M: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

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Lord's Prayer

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

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

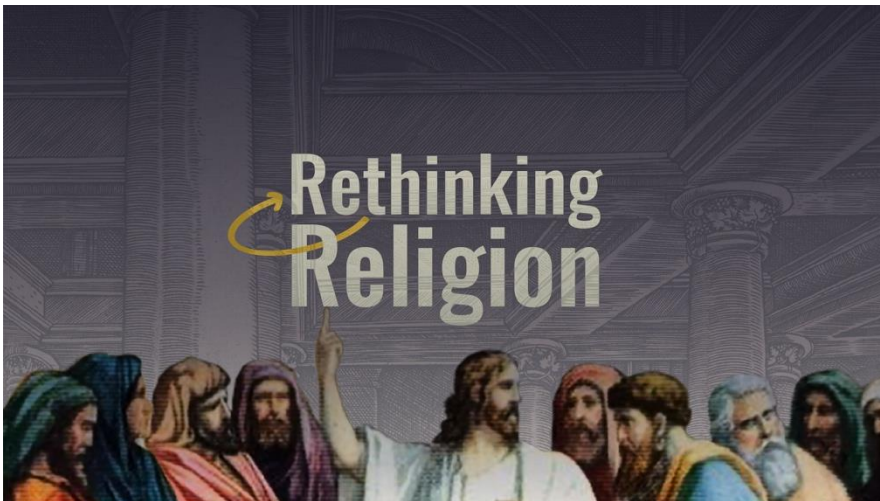
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

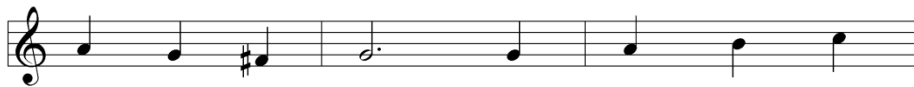


Closing Hymn

Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ Hymn 401:1-3,5



1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad -
 2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, Can heal
 3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne
 5 Your right - eous - ness, O Christ, A - lone



ness to this heart. They tell me all
 my sin - ful soul; Your wounds, not mine,
 the dread - ful load Of sins that none
 can cov - er me; No oth - er right -



is done; They bid my fear de - part.
 con - tain The balm that makes me whole.
 could bear But the in - car - nate God.
 eous - ness Can set a sin - ner free.

Refrain



To whom but you, who can a - lone For



sin a - tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.

Tune: ST. JOHN (66 66 88) *The Parish Choir*, London, 1850.

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday, March 24
8:00am & 10:30am (Confirmation)

Maundy Thursday, March 28
11:00am & 7:00pm

Good Friday - Seven Words, March 29
11:00am

Good Friday - Tenebrae, March 29
7:00pm

Easter Vigil, March 30
8:00pm

Easter Sunday, March 31
8:00am & 10:30am

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