

Sample Liturgy¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 98:1-6

Reader: Oh, sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

People: The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Reader: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

HYMN

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Hebrews 6:17-20

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

HYMN

“Steadfast”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 130:1-4

Reader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

People: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Reader: Triune God, you alone are God. This morning we take the time to acknowledge your greatness. You are holy, perfectly loving, matchless, incomprehensibly good, sovereign over heaven and earth, the source of all that life and light, and every breath that is in our lungs is a grace intended for your glory. God, you *are* worthy of your glory. This morning, Lord, we confess our forgetfulness—indeed, we

¹ From Emmaus Church, Kansas City, MO, www.emmauskc.com

confess our stubbornness to forget you. We delude ourselves into thinking that our lives exist for ourselves: that our money belongs to us, that our children exist for our happiness, that our bodies and minds exist for our pleasure, that our ambitions and vocations exist for our platform, that our accomplishments exist to make a name for ourselves, and that our relationships exist for our leisure. Forgive us, Lord, for we are creatures of the dust, and we have claim to absolutely nothing; what we have is all of grace. If our joy is not tied to your glory, may it be damned. Father, we confess also our attempts to self-justify. We attempt to self-justify in our efforts to win favor through good works wrought by sheer grit. We attempt to self-justify when we minimize our sin, and thus acquit ourselves of guilt. Forgive us, Father, and teach us that godliness does not equate to repenting less. And Father, we confess on behalf of this nation, a people who persists in all manner of wickedness. Embolden us to be a prophetic witness for righteousness, a voice crying in the desert, a presence of salt and light, but teach us first to put our own house in order, so that our gospel message may be corroborated by gospel-transformed living. Holy Spirit, instruct us to be a confessing and repenting people, not only silently to you, but also to one another throughout our lives. Reshape us for this even now as we confess our own individual sins through Jesus.

PRIVATE CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Brothers and sisters, here these words with confidence: you no longer belong in the darkness, but have been brought into his glorious light. If you have clung to Christ by faith, you belong to God and are part of a *holy nation*, a *royal priesthood*. Your sins are stones at the bottom of the ocean, and you are seated with Christ in the heavenlies. This is not wishful-thinking, it is a promise from God himself; if your faith is in Christ, you have been exhaustively forgiven of your sins. Amen!

HYMN

“Our One Song Is Grace”

SERMON

COMMUNION

HYMN

“We Sing as One”

BENEDICTION

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.