

September 21, 2008 11:00am

**Gathering Song**  
**Corporate Greeting**  
**Call to Worship**

Come, Thou Almighty King Hymnal, p. 101

1 John 3:1

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,  
that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

**Songs of Praise**

How Great Is Your Love

No eye has seen, and no ear has heard,  
And no mind has ever conceived  
The glorious things that You have prepared  
For everyone who has believed.  
You brought us near and  
You called us Your own  
And made us joint heirs with Your Son.

Objects of mercy,  
who should have known wrath  
We're filled with unspeakable joy  
Riches of wisdom, unsearchable wealth  
And the wonder of knowing Your voice  
You are our treasure and our great reward,  
Our hope and our glorious King.

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How high and how wide  
How deep and how long  
How sweet and how strong is Your love  
How lavish Your grace  
How faithful Your ways  
How great is Your love, O Lord.

Father, Long Before Creation

Father, long before creation  
Thou hadst chosen us in love;  
And that love so deep, so moving,  
Draws us close to Christ above.  
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us  
Firmly fixed on Christ above.

Loving father, now before thee  
We will ever praise thy love;  
And our songs will sound unceasing  
'Til we reach our home above.  
Giving glory, giving glory  
To our God and to the Lamb.

Chinese Hymn; Chorus and Music by Andrew Osenga  
2005 The Velvet Eagle Sings

Though the world may change its fashion  
Yet our God is e'er the same;  
His compassion and his cov'nant  
Through all ages will remain.  
God's own children, God's own children  
Must forever praise his name.

God's compassion is my story,  
Is my boasting all the day;  
Mercy free and never failing  
Moves my will, directs my way.  
God so loved us, God so loved us,  
That his only son he gave.

**Coorporate Confession of Faith**

Question 26: What do you believe when you say: "I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth"?

**Answer: That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and all that is in them, and who still upholds and governs them by His eternal counsel and providence, is, for the sake of Christ His Son, my God and my Father. In Him I trust so completely as to have no doubt that He will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul, and will also turn to my good whatever adversity He sends me in this life of sorrow. He is able to do so as almighty God, and willing also as a faithful Father.**

**Song of Praise**

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

Let us love and sing and wonder  
Let us praise the Savior's name  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder  
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has brought us nigh to God

He, Who washed us with His blood,  
He, Who washed us with His blood,  
He, Who washed us with His blood,  
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us love the Lord Who bought us  
Pitied us when enemies  
Called us by His grace and taught us  
Gave us ears and gave us eyes  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He presents our souls to God

Let us wonder grace and justice  
Join and point to mercy's store  
When through grace in Christ our trust is  
Justice smiles and asks no more  
He Who washed us with His blood  
He Who washed us with His blood  
He Who washed us with His blood  
Has secured our way to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation  
Threatens hard to bear us down  
For the Lord, our strong salvation,  
Holds in view the conqu'ror's crown

Let us praise and join the chorus  
Of the saints enthroned on high  
Here they trusted Him before us  
Now their praises fill the sky  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

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**Corporate Confession of Sin**

**Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon - Romans 9:25-26**

As He (the Lord) says also in Hosea, "I will call those who were not my people, 'my people,' and her who was not beloved, 'beloved.'" "and it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, ' you are not my people, 'there they shall be called sons of the living God'"

**Song of Petition** Be Thou My Vision Hymnal, p. 642

**Pastoral Prayer for Women’s Ministry**

**Offering** Satisfied

All my life long I had panted  
For a drink from some cool spring  
That I hoped would quench the burning  
Of the thirst I felt within

Poor I was and sought for riches  
Something that would satisfy  
But the dust I gathered 'round me  
Only mocked my soul's sad cry

*Chorus: Hallelujah He has found me  
The one my soul so long has craved  
Jesus satisfies all my longings  
Through His blood I now am saved*

Well of water ever springing  
Bread of life so rich and free  
Untold wealth that never faileth  
My Redeemer is to me CHORUS

Feeding on the filth around me  
Till my strength was almost gone  
Longed my soul for something better  
Only still to hunger on CHORUS

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(Children ages 4-8 are dismissed for Children’s Church)

**Scripture Reading** Luke 15:11-32 & Galatians. 4:4-7

**Sermon** “Adoption” -Marc Corbett

**Song of Response** How Deep the Father’s Love for Us (see insert)

**Dismissal**

**Minister:** Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Luke 15:11-32**

<sup>11</sup>And He said, "A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup>"The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. <sup>13</sup>"And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

<sup>14</sup>"Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. <sup>15</sup>"So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. <sup>16</sup>"And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. <sup>17</sup>"But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>"I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" <sup>20</sup>"So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>"And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup>"But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; <sup>23</sup>and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>"Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>"And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. <sup>27</sup>"And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>"But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. <sup>29</sup>"But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; <sup>30</sup>but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' <sup>31</sup>"And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>"But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'"

**Galatians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup>so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.