

## SIMPLE LITURGY | WEEK OF MARCH 29

Hello! And thanks for using this week's Simple Liturgy as a part of your daily or gathered worship. Before you begin, we encourage you to do two things:

- 1) Refresh yourself on how to use this liturgy for today's worship. You'll find an explanation on the last page.
- 2) Pray and ask God to bless this time and help you know and love Him more than you did before.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*(LEADER) One thing became clearer each day this past week - we are facing a long road ahead. It's a road that may fill with more sickness and danger the further we go. It's a road that will certainly press our spirits as we deal with fear, grief, and loneliness. It will tempt us to doubt God's goodness, presence, and care. But it's a road we have to walk, and it's vitally important to our souls that we walk it together.*

*Turns out there is a great place in Scripture for a time like this. The book of Psalms contains 15 songs called "The Songs of Ascent." Israelites would make trips (ascents) to Jerusalem for festival worship every year. For many, the road was long, hard, and dangerous. There was heat and desert, bandits and robbers, and the threat of wildlife. There were long stretches, mountain climbs, and desolate areas. People needed to stick together to make it through, and these songs helped them do just that. More importantly, these songs helped them remember why the journey was worth it.*

*We're going to make the Songs of Ascent our road trip songs these next few months, adding one to our playlist every week. Each song will help us remember different things about who God is, who we are, and what God has done for us. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how specifically they speak to you and how clearly they point us to Jesus.*

*Let's read our first one together. This is Psalm 121. Would someone like to read this out loud for us?*

### READ

#### **Psalm 121**

"I look up to the mountains - does my help come from there?"

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!

He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber.

Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.

The Lord himself watches over you!

The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade.

The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night.

The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life.

The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go,

both now and forever.”

**(LEADER)** *The statement, “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!” echoes through the Songs of Ascent. Let’s thank God for His tireless care and remind each other of where our help comes from as we sing!*

## **SING**

[“How Firm A Foundation” from YouTube playlist](#)

### ***How Firm A Foundation***

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said,  
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with you! Oh be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid.  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand  
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand!

When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,  
For I will be with you - your troubles to bless -  
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flame will not hurt you. I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine!

That soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes!  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!

## **PRAY**

**(LEADER)** *If God is the maker of heaven and earth, what is beyond His control? Everything temporary; everything eternal; everything seen and unseen - it’s all under His watchful care and powerful command. We are, too. Take some time to silently pray. Ask God to show you how you may be trying to watch over your life for yourself. Confess the things He brings to mind. Repent to rest in Him anew, asking Him for the grace and faith to do so. (give a few minutes for silent prayer)*

*Let’s pray together:*

“Father God,

Thank you for reminding us that we glorify you most

not through what we do for You or for ourselves,  
but through how we rest in You for all our needs - temporary and eternal.  
We thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to teach us this truth and make it possible.  
In Him, You are fully and forever for us. In Him, we are fully and forever Your children.  
Help us come to You today, childlike in confidence.  
Help us remember that Jesus' blood has permanently washed us clean,  
and that His hands hold the door to Your presence wide open even as they hold all creation together.  
May our confidence grow even more tomorrow and every new day,  
so that we may one day go from this life into Your rest and presence with utmost confidence in Him.  
Enable us to live, work, rest, and sleep to Your glory today - in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Based on Psalm 121, Matthew 11:28-29, Colossians 1:16-17, and Hebrews 10:19-22

## SING

["A Christian's Daily Prayer" from YouTube playlist](#)

## CELEBRATE THE GOSPEL

*(LEADER) The good news of the gospel is not that we must make our way through a dangerous journey to find rest and hope in God; it's that God made a dangerous journey to give us eternal rest and hope through Jesus! Let's hear this good news together from Hebrews 2. Would someone like to read this out loud for us?*

### Hebrews 2: 9-10, 14-15

"God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation. Because God's children are human beings - made of flesh and blood - the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone."

*(LEADER) Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son to taste death for us all. It was the death we deserve to fear and face for ourselves. But He stood in our place. How much more is He standing by us in whatever we face today or tomorrow? Let's thank God for loving us so deeply as we sing!*

## SING

["How Deep The Father's Love For Us" from YouTube playlist](#)

## DEVOTIONAL

[Pastor Jeremy's Video - Psalm 121 from YouTube playlist](#)

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(LEADER) Let me read this benediction from the book of Jude as a prayer and blessing for the road ahead:*

### **Jude 24-25**

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling  
and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,  
to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,  
Before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

## HOW TO USE THIS LITURGY

This liturgy is meant to be a similar layout to our Sunday worship services. Our services are arranged the way they are for some good reasons. However, we're not trying to recreate our Sunday service here. We simply want to help you enjoy and express the parts of our Sunday services that matter the most in a way that is easy to do at-home. It may look like a lot, but it's simple to use. Just follow along! Here's how it will work:

We'll start with a Scripture reading because our worship always begins with God - with who He is, what He's said, and what He's done. Our worship is always a response to Him. It's not something we do to get Him to respond to us. No, God steps towards us first. This means that you can think of our songs as the way we respond to God together: He speaks to us through His Word, and we sing to Him and each other in light of what He says to us. So after this reading, you'll sing a song of worship.

Next, we'll move into a time of prayer. God putting Himself on display is like a light being turned on in the dark. We can see ourselves and our world more clearly, and it's usually not a pretty sight. We see a whole lot of brokenness - some of it is sin that needs to be confessed, and some of it is suffering that needs to be lamented. This time of prayer will be a way of responding to God in light of what He reveals about us and our world, and the song that follows will continue that expression, giving voice to repentance and hope.

But God is not just a light that reveals everything broken inside and outside of us. He is a Savior who heals it all. He has good news to speak about what He's done to bring surefire forgiveness and redemption! That good news is the gospel. We'll read a passage that points us straight to Jesus, and we'll sing a song of praise in response to the good news that He's finished the work that forgives and heals all wrongs.

After that, you'll be led to watch Pastor Jeremy's devotional so that God can teach and speak candidly and specifically to you. You'll end your time with a brief prayer of blessing for the days ahead..

A few more helpful notes:

- 1) Don't be weirded out by the word "liturgy". It may make you think of solemn religious rituals. Or you may associate it with a theology/expression of Christianity you feel isn't right or true. We're using the word "liturgy" because it means "the work of the people". It's another way of saying, "This is the framework of how we'll celebrate the gospel and respond to God with renewed faith and thanks together."
- 2) This liturgy is written to work for someone who is leading the time of worship in a home - most likely with their family or roommates as we shelter-in-place. But it's also written so that those pieces are fruitful for you even if you're alone. We encourage you to let all of it lead you to hear God clearly and respond to Him genuinely.
- 3) You may feel weirded out by doing certain things out loud like reading Scripture or singing with family or friends. We encourage you to be brave! Hearing Scripture being read to you and over you is a sweet gift to your soul. It's a physical experience of the spiritual reality that God is present. The same is true for singing. Your singing, even if you can't carry a tune, will be an experiential reminder to those in the room that they are not alone - that God is with them and that you are with them, too. And if you're alone, sing solely to God. He is singing, too, and rejoicing over you with love (Zeph. 3:17).
- 4) Each video is linked individually. [Here is the full youtube playlist.](#)

Enjoy worshipping today!