

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

6<sup>th</sup> June 2020



The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked advance against me to devour me,  
**it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.**

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;  
**though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.**

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:  
**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.**

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
**he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.**

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;  
**at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;**

I will sing and make music to the Lord. Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.  
**My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.**

**PSALM 27:1-8**

## CONFESSION

God our Father,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.  
For turning away from you,  
and ignoring your will for our lives;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish,  
without thinking of you;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do,  
and think and say;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away  
from you  
by temptations in the world about us;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For being thoughtless,  
and not caring enough for the world  
you have made.  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed  
to belong to your Son;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**  
**Amen**

### **COLLECT**

God of truth,  
help us to keep your law of love  
and to walk in ways of wisdom,  
that we may find true life  
in Jesus Christ your Son.  
**Amen**

### **CREED**

*Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## READING: NEHEMIAH 4

### Opposition to the Rebuilding

**4** When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, <sup>2</sup> and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”

<sup>3</sup> Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

<sup>4</sup> Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. <sup>5</sup> Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.

<sup>6</sup> So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

<sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. <sup>8</sup> They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. <sup>9</sup> But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

<sup>11</sup> Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

<sup>12</sup> Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. <sup>14</sup> After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

<sup>15</sup> When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

<sup>16</sup> From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah <sup>17</sup> who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, <sup>18</sup> and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

<sup>19</sup> Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the

wall. <sup>20</sup> Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

<sup>21</sup> So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. <sup>22</sup> At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” <sup>23</sup> Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

### **NEHEMIAH 6:15,16**

<sup>15</sup> So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.

<sup>16</sup> When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

### **SERMON: REVD JACKIE FOUNTAIN**

#### **PRAYERS**

followed by the Lord’s Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

#### **THE GRACE**

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

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