

"TAKE 10 - Worship While Away" (Sunday, November 2, 2025)

Share:

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will.

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing praise in the assembly of the faithful.

So that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing praise in the assembly of the faithful.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory.

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing praise in the assembly of the faithful.

The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess it forever, forever and ever.

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Read these words from a hymn:

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all around seems bleak:

on God's good promise they rely,

so while they live and when they die how forcefully they speak:

the strong, who once were weak!

Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, beyond mere mortal sight:

who seek the city God has planned,

the true, eternal promised land, and steer on toward that light,

a beacon ever bright.

Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a sparkling precious stone:

They show by what they say and do an inward beauty,

warm and true, for God's concerns they own:

God's love through them is known.

Give thanks for saints of ages past and saints alive today:

though often by this world despised,

their hearts by God are richly prized.

Give thanks that we may say we share their pilgrim way.

Read this scripture from worship:

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4, *The Message*

1¹⁻⁴ The problem as God gave Habakkuk to see it: God, how long do I have to cry out for help before you listen? How many times do I have to yell, "Help! Murder! Police!" before you come to the rescue? Why do you force me to look at evil, stare trouble in the face day after day? Anarchy and violence break out, quarrels and fights all over the

place. Law and order fall to pieces. Justice is a joke. The wicked have the righteous hamstrung and stand justice on its head.

2 ¹What's God going to say to my questions? I'm braced for the worst.

I'll climb to the lookout tower and scan the horizon. I'll wait to see what God says, how he'll answer my complaint. ²⁻³ And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run.

This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.

⁴ "Look at that man, bloated by self-importance—full of himself but soul-empty.

But the person in right standing before God through loyal and steady believing

is fully alive, *really* alive.

Luke 19:1-10, *The Message*

¹⁻⁴ Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

⁵⁻⁷ When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"

⁸ Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages."

⁹⁻¹⁰ Jesus said, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."

Talk together:

- ✂ When did you first hear the story of Zacchaeus?
- ✂ What did you think then? What do you think now?
- ✂ How is God's grace extended to Zacchaeus? To you?
- ✂ When have you run to Jesus?
- ✂ How can you share your experience so others pursue Jesus as well?
- ✂ In what areas of your life might Jesus be calling you to begin the work of repair? What steps could you take to do better?
- ✂ In what ways might our congregation need transformation – like the crowd in Zacchaeus' story – in order to make room?
- ✂ How will you live by faith this week?

Pray together:

O God, sometimes we cannot see you. We search for you and must strain to hear your voice. And yet you come to us where we are, in our sinful lives. You forgive us and change our hearts through the grace of your son, Jesus, and his liberating love.

Set us aright again as we seek to follow you, thanking you for your presence in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.