

## PRELUDE

*Festival Prelude on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"/ P. Dickens*

◇ A time of quiet preparation

## WORDS OF GREETING

### WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

Psalm 96: 1-4 (NIV)

**Leader:** Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**People:** Sing to the LORD, praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.

**Leader:** Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**People:** For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;  
he is to be feared above all gods.

IN PRAYER

### \*WE PRAISE OUR GOD

HYMN OF PRAISE 47 (to tune of 76, *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*)  
*God the Lord Is King*

### WE CONFESS OUR SIN

adapted from *Reformation Theology*

**Unison:** O Lord, our great God,  
you are most holy and filled with glory.  
We come into your presence with awe and wonder.  
You are our Father, full of mercy and steadfast love,  
And overflowing with grace.  
Incline your ear to our troubles.  
Hear us as we pour out our sorrows to you.  
Hear us as we confess our sins.

(silent prayer)

Forgive us, we pray  
Not because of our own righteousness,  
But because of your great mercy.  
Because of your great mercy  
in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
It is in his name that we pray,  
for he is our Savior and Lord.

### \*WE EXALT OUR LORD

WORSHIP SONGS

**Leader:** This is what the LORD Almighty says: "In a little while I will once  
more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I  
will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations  
will come, and I will fill this house with glory," says the LORD  
Almighty. And in this place I will grant peace," declares the LORD  
Almighty. Haggai 2:6,7 & 9b (NIV)

### MISSION MOMENT

Stephanie Hubach, MNA Special Needs Ministry

### WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (4 years old to 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

WELCOME TO VISITORS

### WE SEEK GOD'S FACE

Prayers of God's People

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ CHORAL OFFERTORY *Up to the Hills I Lift My Eyes/ N. Gouin*

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 18 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Now Jethro, the priest of Midian and father-in-law of Moses, heard of  
everything God had done for Moses and for his people Israel, and how the  
LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

<sup>2</sup> After Moses had sent away his wife Zipporah, his father-in-law Jethro  
received her<sup>3</sup> and her two sons. One son was named Gershom, for Moses  
said, "I have become an alien in a foreign land";<sup>4</sup> and the other was named  
Eliezer, for he said, "My father's God was my helper; he saved me from the  
sword of Pharaoh."

<sup>5</sup> Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, together with Moses' sons and wife, came  
to him in the desert, where he was camped near the mountain of God.<sup>6</sup> Jethro  
had sent word to him, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am  
coming to you with your wife and her two sons."

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and  
kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent.<sup>8</sup> Moses told  
his father-in-law about everything the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the  
Egyptians for Israel's sake and about all the hardships they had met along the

way and how the Lord had saved them.

<sup>9</sup> Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the Lord had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians.<sup>10</sup> He said, “Praise be to the Lord, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians.<sup>11</sup> Now I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly.”<sup>12</sup> Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses’ father-in-law in the presence of God.

<sup>13</sup> The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening.<sup>14</sup> When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?”

<sup>15</sup> Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will.<sup>16</sup> Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God’s decrees and laws.”

<sup>17</sup> Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good.<sup>18</sup> You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.<sup>19</sup> Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him.<sup>20</sup> Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform.<sup>21</sup> But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.<sup>22</sup> Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.<sup>23</sup> If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.”

<sup>24</sup> Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.<sup>25</sup> He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.<sup>26</sup> They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

<sup>27</sup> Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.

SERMON

*The Blessing of In-laws*  
series in Exodus  
Rev. Thomas E. Nicholas

**\*WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE 368

*The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear*

\*WORDS OF PEACE

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO MUSIC ROOM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR  
(4 years through 5th grade)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update on paying off the mortgage

POSTLUDE

*Allegro/ G. F. Handel*