

## SUNDAY, JULY 2 | ACTS 5:17-42

### CALL TO WORSHIP

God of comfort and security - you are a resting place for us. You are the one and only God. All of our longings are satisfied in your presence.

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs, yes, faints  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.

You are the creator of all and none will stand in the way of what you desire. Yet you are gentle and you care for us, as a shepherd to wandering sheep.

Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.  
Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!

By your grace alone, let us drink deeply of your presence today. Give us the rest and everlasting satisfaction that we desire, which we know can only be found in you.

For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.  
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does he withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.  
O Lord of hosts,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you!

*From psalm 84*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God's word assures us:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In humility and faith let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

For the sinful things we have done,

Forgive us.

For the righteous things we have failed to do,

Forgive us.

For all the times we have acted without love,

Forgive us.

For all the times we have reacted without thought,

Forgive us.

For all the times we have withdrawn care,

Forgive us.

For all the times we have failed to forgive,

Forgive us.

For hurtful words said,

For unfinished tasks,

And unfulfilled hopes,

God of all time,

Forgive us and have mercy on us for your sake.

Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The prophet Isaiah commands us:

“Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.”

Christians - each one of us has turned our backs on the living God - choosing to love and serve idols instead of him - and Jesus Christ has borne the punishment for those sins. Rejoice and sing today, because Jesus was pierced for your transgressions, and has traded your sorrows for his joy.

Thanks be to God!

## **BENEDICTION**

The God who is sovereign over all things has promised us that we can have unquenchable joy in any and all circumstances.

Go now, clinging to that promise - so that our city will see that joy in us as we walk through burdensome trials. May they glorify God because of the life he has given us. Amen.