

Sunday Gathering

Jesus Our Refuge, Luke
21:5-19 - James Power

April 30, 2023

Luke: Upside Down (Spring
2023)

Call to Worship - Isaiah 25:1, 4, 9

Church, today is what we call a Sending Sunday, where we celebrate sending one of our own members to proclaim the gospel among the nations. For this reason, we have asked that distributed member to choose the songs we are singing today.

So today begins with a celebration: of who God is, what he has done, and what he will do. Even in the Old Testament, Isaiah does this, then he prophesies that all of God's people from every nation will come together to lift up his name, taking refuge in him. The Lord will continue his plans of redemption, now and in the future. This morning, we get to be a part of that party—by lifting up Christ. Let's bring that energy into our worship this morning. Will you read the underlined portions with me?

O Lord, you are my God;

**** I will exalt you; I will praise your name, ****

for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

****“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.**

**This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”****

Isaiah 25:1, 4, 9

In Christ Alone

Confession

Part of giving God glory is recognizing who he is and who we are in comparison. He is powerful and in control and full of love for the people he created; and often, if we are honest, we are not. But through Jesus Christ, we can receive forgiveness and shelter. Despite our failings, we can come to Jesus, who waits for us with open arms to give us refuge. As you consider the text of this hymn in a few moments of reflection, what fears or failings are you hesitating to bring to Jesus? Take them to him now, and receive his steadfast grace.

When overwhelmed with doubts and fear,
Great God, do thou my spirit cheer,
Let not my eyes with tears be fed,
But to the Rock of Ages led.

When sick, or faint, or sore dismayed,
Then let my hopes on thee be stayed;
Thy summit rising to the skies,
Can shield my head when dangers rise.

[moment of reflection]

Let's read this last verse together.

****When guilt lies heavy on my soul,
And waves of fierce temptation roll,
I'd to this Rock for shelter flee,
And make my refuge, Lord, in thee.****

“Lead Me To The Rock That Is Higher Than I”

John Kent, Gadsby's Hymnal No. 926

What A Beautiful Name

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Sermon - Luke 21:5-19

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Build My Life

Doxology

Benediction - Isaiah 25:9; Luke 21

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week. We describe them as "intentional environments to be transformed by the gospel through relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us, and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

- 1) Spring Soccer Clinics - Our Spring soccer clinics will skip this Saturday (Derby weekend) but return on, May 13th, and will finish on the 20th.
- 2) MCT - Our Missionary Care Team will meet this Thursday, May 4th at 7pm at the Groce's home.
- 3) Antioch Academy - Our three-week book study through Carolyn Lacey's "Extraordinary Hospitality for Ordinary People" concludes next Sunday at 9:00 AM.

For today's benediction we have the privilege of sending one of our distributed members back overseas after a long season in the states. For security sake we are going to conclude the recording of the gathering here. For those of you watching the recording, peace be with you.

Interview, invitation to send-off, and prayer

Church, although we live in a broken world full of false hope and false security, we can instead run to Christ, who has given us a true refuge in himself. Therefore may you go, patiently waiting and working toward his return, rejoicing so that the world can see his salvation. Based on Isaiah 25:9, Luke 21

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

You are sent.
