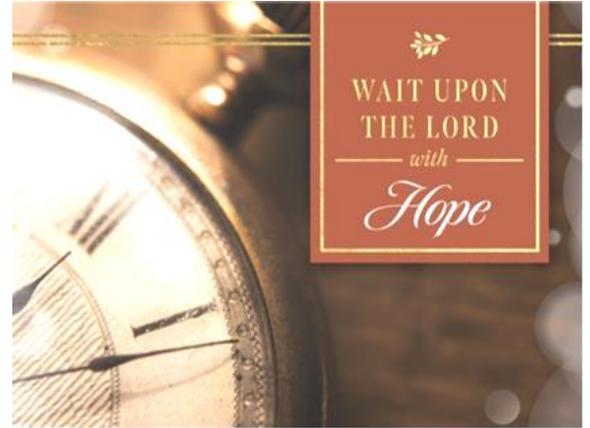


*Wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word
I hope. Psalm 130:5*



INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C Amen.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous.

P For God alone my soul waits in silence,

C for my hope is from Him.

P He alone is my rock and my salvation,

C my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

P Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord with hope!

HYMN

CW 12

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the captives to release, in Satan's prison held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim
And heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C Lord, help me to hear you saying, "I am your hope" over all the other voices. Lord, your word says, you are the hope for hopeless so I'm running to you with both hands stretched out and grabbing on to you. Fill me up with hope and give me a tangible reminder today that hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline. God, you know those things in my heart that I barely dare to hope for, today I give them to you. I entrust them to you, because I know that you can do more than I could ever imagine or request. God, you are my hope and I trust you. Amen.

P Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son to show his infinite love and

forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

OLD TESTAMENT READING ... Isaiah 40:27-31

PSALM

Psalm 71



P You have been my hope, 'LORD God,

C my confidence 'since my youth.

P I will always keep 'hoping.

C I will keep adding to my 'Praise for you.

P My mouth will tell about your 'righteousness,

C about your salvation 'all day long,

Refrain

EPISTLE READING ... Romans 8:22-25

P Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

C Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their hope. Hallelujah!

CW 8

♪ Come O precious Ransom come,
Only Hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior to the World!
Open are to you all portals.
Come, your beauty let us view;
Anxiously we wait for you.

Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah what riches will be mine
When you are my guest divine.

GOSPEL READING ... John 1:1-5

SERMON HYMN

CW 11

Comfort, comfort all my people, speak of peace, so says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning from their sorrow's load.
Speak to all Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

All, their sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
They has suffered many a day, now their griefs have passed away;
God will change their pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

Straighten out the crooked highway, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is spread abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken.

SERMON WAIT ON THE LORD WITH HOPE

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

BENEDICTION

P May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and
the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous.

C As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

CW 6

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free;
From our fears and sins release us, by your death on Calvary.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth impart,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all-sufficient merit, raise us to your glorious throne.