

\* **Call to Worship:** *Exodus 15:2*  
*The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation;  
this is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.*

\* **Opening Prayer**

\* **Congregational Favorites**

**Profession of Faith:** Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 99-100

What is God's will for us in the third commandment?

**That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God  
by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths,  
nor share in such horrible sins  
by being silent bystanders.**

**In a word,  
it requires that we use the holy name of God  
only with reverence and awe,  
so that we may properly confess him, pray to him,  
and praise him in everything we do and say.**

Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and cursing  
really such serious sin that God is angry also with those  
who do not do all they can to help prevent it and forbid it?

**Yes, indeed.  
No sin is greater,  
no sin makes God more angry than blaspheming his name.  
That is why he commanded the death penalty for it.**

**Offering:** Jeff & Melissa

**Evening Prayer**

\* **O God Our Help in Ages Past** #370:1,2 (HFG)

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Still may we dwell secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

**Scripture:** *Esther 3 (ESV)* pg. 522

<sup>1</sup> After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. <sup>2</sup> And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage. <sup>3</sup> Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?" <sup>4</sup> And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew. <sup>5</sup> And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. <sup>6</sup> But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

<sup>7</sup> In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. <sup>8</sup> Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them. <sup>9</sup> If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries." <sup>10</sup> So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. <sup>11</sup> And the king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you."

<sup>12</sup> Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in

its own script and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring. <sup>13</sup> Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. <sup>14</sup> A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. <sup>15</sup> The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** *Haman's Hate Crime Against the Jews*

**Prayer**

\* **In Christ There is No East or West** #685:1,3 (HFG)

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In Him no South or North;  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands then, brothers of the faith,  
Whate'er your race may be;  
Who serves my Father as a son  
Is surely kin to me.

\* **God's Blessing**

\* **Trust and Obey** #454:1 (HFG)

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Refrain:* Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

*Haman's Hate Crime Against the Jews*  
*Esther 3*

Bad blood between Haman and Mordecai, 3:1-7.

The dirty deed is done by decree, 3:8-15.

Implications and application.

The sanctuary is equipped with an assistive listening system.  
Please switch hearing aids to "T" to use this system.

Pastor: Robert W

Music: Nancy Z

Song Leader: Craig G

Offering: Jeff & Melissa are missionaries to Bangladesh with  
Christian Reformed World Missions. Jeff serves on the faculty  
at the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh helping to  
develop Bangladeshi Christian leaders. For more information,  
visit [www.crwmm.org](http://www.crwmm.org)

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First Christian Reformed Church  
Lynden, Washington  
September 24, 2017  
6:00 p.m. Worship Service