

\* **Call to Worship:** *Psalms 95:6-7*  
Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;  
**for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture,  
the flock under his care.**

\* **Opening Prayer**

\* **O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** #349:1,2,4 (HFG)  
O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free:  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.

\* **Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing** #318:1,3 (HFG)  
Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount – I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

O, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

\* **Wonderful Grace of Jesus** #114:1,3 (HFG)  
Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin;  
How shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin?  
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free,  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. *Refrain*

*Refrain:* Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,  
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;  
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,  
All sufficient grace for even me;  
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,  
Greater far than all my sin and shame;  
O magnify the precious name of Jesus, praise His Name!

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled,  
By its transforming power making him God's dear child,  
Purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity,  
And the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. *Refrain*

**Profession of Faith:** Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 120–121  
Why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"?  
**At the very beginning of our prayer  
Christ wants to kindle in us what is basic to our prayer—  
the childlike awe and trust  
that God through Christ has become our Father.  
Our fathers do not refuse us the things of this life;  
God our Father will even less refuse to give us  
what we ask in faith.**  
Why the words "in heaven"?  
**These words teach us not to think of God's heavenly  
majesty as something earthly, and to expect everything  
for body and soul from his almighty power.**

**Offering:** Lynden Human Life

**Sweet Hour of Prayer** #439:1,2 (HFG)  
Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known:  
In seasons of distress and grief  
My soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,  
Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To Him whose truth and faithfulness  
Engage the waiting soul to bless:  
And since He bids me seek His face,  
Believe His Word, and trust His grace,  
I'll cast on Him my every care,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

**Evening Prayer**

\* **May the Mind of Christ, My Savior** #483:1,2 (HFG)  
May the mind of Christ, my Savior,  
Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and power controlling all I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly  
In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph only through His power.

\* **Scripture:** *Esther 9:20-32 (ESV)* pg. 528  
<sup>20</sup> And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, <sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor.  
<sup>23</sup> So the Jews accepted what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them. <sup>24</sup> For Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them. <sup>25</sup> But when it came before the king, he gave orders in writing that his evil plan that he had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. <sup>26</sup> Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur. Therefore, because of all that was written in this letter, and of what they had faced in this matter, and of what had happened to them, <sup>27</sup> the Jews firmly obligated themselves and their offspring and all who joined them, that without fail they would keep these two days according to what was written and at the time appointed every year, <sup>28</sup> that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, in every clan, province, and city, and that these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants.  
<sup>29</sup> Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew gave full written authority, confirming this second letter about Purim. <sup>30</sup> Letters were sent to all the Jews, to the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, in words of peace and truth, <sup>31</sup> that these days of Purim should be observed at their appointed seasons, as Mordecai the Jew

and Queen Esther obligated them, and as they had obligated themselves and their offspring, with regard to their fasts and their lamenting. <sup>32</sup> The command of Esther confirmed these practices of Purim, and it was recorded in writing.

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

**Message:** *The Feast of Purim*

\* **To God Be the Glory** #363:1,3 (HFG)

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin  
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice.  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain*

\* **God's Blessing**

\* **Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise** #519:2 (HFG)

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;  
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day.  
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

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

Pastor: Robert W  
Music: Perlene H

Offering: Lynden Human Life offers pro-life educational materials and resources to the residents of Whatcom County.  
For more information visit [www.lyndenhumanlife.org](http://www.lyndenhumanlife.org).

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## **The Feast of Purim** *Esther 9:20-32*

The Letter of Mordecai, vss. 20-28.

The Letter of Esther, vss. 29-32.

The Purpose of Purim.

Implications and application.



First Christian Reformed Church  
Lynden, Washington  
January 21, 2018  
6:00 p.m. Worship Service