

* **Call to Worship:** *Psalm 145:3-5*
*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.*
**One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**
**On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

* **Opening Prayer**

* **I Will Extol You, O My God** #185:1,2 (PH)
I will extol you, O my God, and praise you, O my King;
Yes, every day and evermore Your praises I will sing.
Great is the Lord, our mighty God, and greatly to be praised;
His greatness is unsearchable, above all glory raised.

Each generation to the next shall testimony bear,
And to your praise, from age to age,
Your wondrous acts declare.
Upon your glorious majesty and honor I will dwell,
And all your grand and glorious works
And greatness I will tell.

* **The Solid Rock** #92:1,3 (HFG)
My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

* **The Wonder of It All** #13:1,2 (HFG)
There's a wonder of sunset at evening,
The wonder as sunrise I see;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that God loves me.

Refrain: O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.
O the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.

* indicates to stand if able

There's a wonder of springtime and harvest,
The sky, the stars, the sun;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is a wonder that's only begun.

Refrain: O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.
O the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.

Profession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 110-111

What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

**He forbids not only outright theft and robbery,
punishable by law.
But in God's sight theft also includes
cheating and swindling our neighbor
by schemes made to appear legitimate, such as:
inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume;
fraudulent merchandising; counterfeit money;
excessive interest; or any other means forbidden by God.**
**In addition he forbids all greed
and pointless squandering of his gifts.**

What does God require of you in this commandment?

**That I do whatever I can for my neighbor's good,
that I treat others as I would like them to treat me,
and that I work faithfully
so that I may share with those in need.**

Offering: Building the Future Fund

Evening Prayer

* **Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness**

Lord, we hear your word with gladness:
You have spoken—we rejoice:
Words of love and life and freedom,
Help us make their truth our choice!
Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.

May we hear with understanding,
By your Spirit taught and led.
May the springs of all our being
By your living Word be fed.
May our hearts accept with meekness
All the grace your light makes known.
May obedience mark our footsteps
Till we make each word our own.

Scripture: *Esther 8:1-17 (ESV)* pg. 526

¹ On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. ² And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³ Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. ⁴ When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, Esther rose and stood before the king. ⁵ And she said, "If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king. ⁶ For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?" ⁷ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews. ⁸ But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked."

⁹ The king's scribes were summoned at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day. And an edict was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded concerning the Jews, to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, and also to the Jews in their script and their language. ¹⁰ And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses that were used in the king's service, bred from the royal stud, ¹¹ saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods, ¹² on one day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. ¹³ A copy of what was written was to be issued as a decree in every province, being publicly displayed to all

peoples, and the Jews were to be ready on that day to take vengeance on their enemies. ¹⁴ So the couriers, mounted on their swift horses that were used in the king's service, rode out hurriedly, urged by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Susa the citadel.

¹⁵ Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. ¹⁶ The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor. ¹⁷ And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *A Eucatastrophe*

* **You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim** #360:1,2 (HFG)

You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol:
His kingdom is glorious, he rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save,
And still He is nigh, His presence we have;
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

* **God's Blessing**

* **Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow** #638 (PH)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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
Offering: First CRC Building the Future Fund is in place to fund
future building projects of our church. For more information,
talk to a member of the Long Range Ministry Team.

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A Eucatastrophe

Esther 8:1-17

Mordecai's promotion, vss. 1-2.

Esther's plea to revoke the decree, vss. 3-8.

Mordecai's new counter decree, vss. 9-14.

Celebrating in Susa, vss. 15-17.

Implications and applications.



First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
November 19, 2017
6:00 p.m. Worship Service