

AUGUST 20, 2023

EVENING

Order of Worship

Greeting

Call to Worship

Psalm 84:1-2

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Invocation

* Hymn # 92

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Affirmation of Faith:

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 45-47

Q. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Q. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the holy true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Q. What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.

* Scripture Reading

Old Testament: *Exodus 20:1-7 (NKJV)*

And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. “You shall have no other gods before Me. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

New Testament: *1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV)*

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

* **Minister:** This is the Word of our God.

* **Congregation:** The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever.

Pastoral Prayer

* Hymn # 295

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

* Prayer for Illumination

* Sermon Text

Esther 3:1-6 (NKJV)

After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. And all the king’s servants who were within the king’s gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage. Then the king’s servants who were within the king’s gate said to Mordecai, “Why do you transgress the king’s command?” Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai’s words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew. When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

* **Minister:** Thus far the reading of God's holy Word. And may God add His blessing to the reading of His Word.

* **Congregation:** Thanks be to God!

Sermon Title: "Faith under Fire"

Rev. Chaplain Bridger Bond

Sermon Outline: Back page

Prayer for Transformation

* **Hymn # 499**

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Lord's Supper

* **Hymn # 521**

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

* **Benediction**

* **Departing Hymn # 740**

"Threefold Amen"

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Sermon Outline: *Esther 3:1-6* "Faith under Fire"

God applies his Law for his people.

Introduction

1. Life in the city of man
 - a) Introduction to Esther
 - b) Introduction to Mordecai

Head

1. The Drama. Exposition.
 - a. Verse. 1-2, newly promoted man
 - i. Haman's heritage
 - ii. Mordecai, & the court
 - b. Verse 3-4 Courtyard interaction.
 - i. Good friends?
 - ii. Testing of Mordecai
 1. Matthew Poole & Pirkei DeRabbi Eliezer 50:5
2. Radical 2 Kingdom and Mordecai.
 - a. How to view civil sphere
 - b. Mediatorial reign of Christ
3. Haman's Hatred
 - a. Verse 5: The wrath
 - b. Verse 6: The plan

Heart

1. Knowledge.
 - a. 2 Peter 1:3.
 - b. Affections for Christ.
2. Steadfastness (V. 4).
 - a. Col. 2.5 & 7

Hand

1. Examples of Mordecai's character
 - a) Principle
 - b) Persistent
 - c) Prayerful