

# THE LORD'S DAY

June 30, 2024

10 O'clock A.M.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS

**The 12 Disciples**

REFLECTION

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

**Psalm 145:1-3,8,9**

**I will extol You, my God and King. And bless Your name forever and ever.**

*Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.*

**Great is Yahweh, and greatly to be praised,  
The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger  
and abounding in steadfast love.**

\*HYMN OF ADORATION

*A Mighty Fortress*

#92

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

*Father,  
May Your Name be honored as holy.  
May Your kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
For we ourselves also forgive everyone in debt to us.  
And do not bring us into temptation. (HCSB)*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

**Christian, in whom do you believe and trust?** SC 5,6,21  
*We believe in the one true and living God revealed in Holy Scripture.  
He is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; these three persons are  
the one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.*

But Jesus Christ is present in a special way by His Holy Spirit. When we gather, we share in this together as one body. We have communion with Jesus spiritually and communion with one another. “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread” (10:17).

Second, this important meal is a memorial. Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me” (11:24). It is worth noting that Jesus did not institute a meal that would remind us of His miracles or His sermons. He established a memorial of His death. This shows us how central the death of Jesus is to Christians. We are not simply followers of Jesus’ teaching or admirers of His ethics; we are those whose only hope of reconciliation with God comes through the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

Because of this great truth, it is only fitting that the third key purpose of the Lord’s Supper is proclamation. Since we eat the meal together in the context of public worship and the proclamation of the Word, our participation is a public matter. We are declaring something about Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection. “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes” (11:26).

What a day it will be when He comes! Believers who know Jesus Christ through His Word and by His Spirit will then see Him face-to-face. The meal that is so central to our lives today—the supper in which the Lord meets us and feeds us spiritually—will then give way to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, He was already looking forward to that day. He said, “I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom” ([Matt. 26:29](#)). When the Apostle John was given a glimpse of that day, he was told to take special note: “And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb’” ([Rev. 19:9](#)).

## Joshua Renews the Covenant

**30**At that time Joshua built an altar to Yahweh, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, **31**just as Moses the servant of Yahweh had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, “an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to Yahweh and sacrificed peace offerings. **32**And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. **33**And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of Yahweh had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. **34**And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. **35**There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

### **The Table of the Lord** by Jonathan L. Master From TABLETALK

Among all the important meals recorded in the Bible, the most significant is also the one to which all Christians are invited. It was instituted by Jesus Christ on the night when He was betrayed. It is not a one-time occurrence but is to be celebrated perpetually until it reaches its heavenly culmination. It is called the Lord’s Supper.

The Bible identifies at least three purposes for this supper, all of which are outlined in [1 Corinthians 10–11](#).

The first is the most mysterious. The Lord’s Supper is a participation—a sharing. What is it that we share? We share spiritually in the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has fellowship with His people by His Spirit at the supper. Of course, Jesus is not physically present—the text makes that abundantly clear.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Based on the Lord’s Prayer

*Our Father, You are Sovereign in the Heavens, and You do whatever you please. We acknowledge that we do not honor You as holy in our lives and in our prayers. We sinfully worry about our own needs, but neglect the Kingdom of God. We confess that we desire Your forgiveness and yet withhold it from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please Merciful Father, forgive us for these and all of our sins through the precious death of Jesus our Savior. Keep us from temptation, and deliver us from the Evil one. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**1 Peter 1:18-21**

### **Knowing that you were ransomed**

*Not with perishable things such as silver or gold*

### **But with the precious blood of Christ**

*Like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

### **We are believers in God, who raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him glory.**

*So that your faith and hope are in God.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEVOTION    *How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place*    #469

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY    *As the Deer with “Largo by Antonin Dvorak*    Ginni Coffin

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE    Doxology

\*READING OF GOD’S WORD    **Joshua 8**  
Pew Bible Pg, 216-218

PREACHING OF THE WORD    **Defeat of Ai**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE    *Jesus Shall Reign*    #441

\*BENEDICTION

\*GLORIA PATRI    #735

## Scripture Reading

### Joshua 8

#### *The Fall of Ai*

**1**And Yahweh said to Joshua, “Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land. **2**And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it.”

**3**So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night. **4**And he commanded them, “Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready. **5**And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them. **6**And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, ‘They are fleeing from us, just as before.’ So we will flee before them. **7**Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for Yahweh your God will give it into your hand. **8**And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of Yahweh. See, I have commanded you.” **9**So Joshua sent them out. And they went to the place of ambush and lay between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai, but Joshua spent that night among the people.

**10**Joshua arose early in the morning and mustered the people and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai. **11**And all the fighting men who were with him went up and drew near before the city and encamped on the north side of Ai, with a ravine between them and Ai. **12**He took about 5,000 men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city. **13**So they stationed the forces, the main encampment that was north of the city and its rear guard west of the city. But Joshua spent that night in the valley. **14**And as soon as the king of Ai saw this, he and all his people, the men of the city, hurried and went out early to the appointed place toward the Arabah to meet Israel in battle. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. **15**And Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten before them and fled in the direction of the wilderness. **16**So all the people who were in the city were called together to pursue them, and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away

from the city. **17**Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. They left the city open and pursued Israel.

**18**Then Yahweh said to Joshua, “Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand.” And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. **19**And the men in the ambush rose quickly out of their place, and as soon as he had stretched out his hand, they ran and entered the city and captured it. And they hurried to set the city on fire. **20**So when the men of Ai looked back, behold, the smoke of the city went up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that, for the people who fled to the wilderness turned back against the pursuers. **21**And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city went up, then they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. **22**And the others came out from the city against them, so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped. **23**But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him near to Joshua.

**24**When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the open wilderness where they pursued them, and all of them to the very last had fallen by the edge of the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the edge of the sword. **25**And all who fell that day, both men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai. **26**But Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction. **27**Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the word of Yahweh that he commanded Joshua. **28**So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day. **29**And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised over it a great heap of stones, which stands there to this day.