

SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR 3-29-2020

- **Open with prayer.**
 - **Read Psalm 124:8** “Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.” Amen.
- **Sing a Song of Praise** – this can be done a cappella, with piano, or find a recording on Youtube. If you do not have a hymnal, you can look up the lyrics online. Some suggestions:
 - *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, (LUYH #590; Grey Psalter #501 ; Blue Psalter #383)
 - *God Himself Is with Us* (LUYH #538; Grey #244; Blue #324)
- **Pray for God’s presence and blessing:**

God of grace, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven,
even as we gather before your face,
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
By the power of your Spirit, help us to lift up our hearts in praise,
to receive your lavish gifts stored up for us in Christ,
and to live as your faithful children and witnesses,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.¹
- **Read God’s Law:** Read Romans 12:9-21
- **Confess your sins:**

Loving God, I come to you in the name of Jesus.
Sensing that you loved me before I could ever love you,
I come to you as a sinner who needs your forgiveness.
Trusting in your power, I long to turn away from all that keeps me from you.
With your family in all times and places,
I believe that salvation—for me, for others, for creation itself—
comes through Jesus Christ.
Thank you for this indescribable gift.
Amen.²
- **Read a promise of forgiveness:** Read Titus 2:11-14
- **Read or sing a song of thanksgiving:** Suggestions:
 - Psalm 118
 - *For the Beauty of the Earth* (LUYH #19; Grey #432)
- **Say a prayer of intercession.** One way to think through a prayer of intercession is to think about concentric circles from the biggest to the smallest. For example: pray for the world, then for our nation, then for our state... community... church... family... self. You can try

¹ Taken from LUYH #494

² Taken from LUYH #627 optional prayer

this as you and your family have this time of prayer. It would be good also to pray specifically for those from our church family who have special needs and concerns.

- **Read or Recite Psalm 119:9-16**
- **Read a prayer for the illumination of the Word:**
Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for your Word, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life. Through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.³
- **Watch the sermon on Facebook:** www.facebook.com/crclucas
- **Sing a Song of Response**, Suggestions:
 - *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* (LUYH #737; Grey #287; Blue #452)
 - *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God* (LUYH #746)
- **Read from the Heidelberg Catechism**, e.g., Question and Answer 86.
Q. Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ, without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?
A. Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.
- **Close with prayer**, (or sing as a closing prayer)⁴
God of mercy, God of grace, show the brightness of your face.
Shine upon us, Savior shine; fill your world with light divine;
All your saving health extend unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise you, Lord; earth shall then its fruits afford.
Unto us your blessing give; we to you devoted live,
all below and all above, one in joy and light and love.
Amen.

³ Taken from LUYH #756

⁴ *God of Mercy, God of Grace*; Words by Henry F. Lyte. LUYH #934

BELGIC CONFESSION ARTICLE 24: THE SANCTIFICATION OF SINNERS

We believe that this true faith,
produced in man by the hearing of God's Word
and by the work of the Holy Spirit,
regenerates him and makes him a "new man,"
causing him to live the "new life"
and freeing him from the slavery of sin.

Therefore,
far from making people cold
toward living in a pious and holy way,
this justifying faith,
quite to the contrary,
so works within them that
apart from it
they will never do a thing out of love for God
but only out of love for themselves
and fear of being condemned.

So then, it is impossible
for this holy faith to be unfruitful in a human being,
seeing that we do not speak of an empty faith
but of what Scripture calls
"faith working through love,"
which leads a man to do by himself
the works that God has commanded
in his Word.

These works,
proceeding from the good root of faith,
are good and acceptable to God,
since they are all sanctified by his grace.
Yet they do not count toward our justification—
for by faith in Christ we are justified,
even before we do good works.

Otherwise they could not be good,
any more than the fruit of a tree could be good
if the tree is not good in the first place.

So then, we do good works,
but nor for merit—
for what would we merit?

BELGIC CONFESSION ARTICLE 24: THE SANCTIFICATION OF SINNERS – CONT'D

Rather, we are indebted to God for the good works we do,
and not he to us,
since it is he who “works in us both to will and do
according to his good pleasure”—
thus keeping in mind what is written:
“When you have done all that is commanded you,
then you shall say, ‘We are unworthy servants;
we have done what it was our duty to do.’“
Yet we do not wish to deny
that God rewards good works—
but it is by his grace
that he crowns his gifts.
Moreover,
although we do good works
we do not base our salvation on them;
for we cannot do any work
that is not defiled by our flesh
and also worthy of punishment.
And even if we could point to one,
memory of a single sin is enough
for God to reject that work.
So we would always be in doubt,
tossed back and forth
without any certainty,
and our poor consciences would be tormented constantly
if they did not rest on the merit
of the suffering and death of our Savior.