

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Preparation for Worship

*Revelation 5:9-10 (NKJV)*

*And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."*

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Welcome

Warmest greetings in the Lord! John, the seer of the Apocalypse, writes in verse 4, *"I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside."* What should he have expected? Crying our eyes out often represents the kind of extreme emotions that we followers of Jesus experience. But it also follows an arc along which God is moving his beloved children. That's why in this passage we can see progression from sobs over an angel's question about who would open the scroll, to the astonishing answer: *"Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!'"* (v. 13). Worship of the One who is "worthy of worship" will never end. -Pastor Karl

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration

## GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

Hymn of Praise #137

"Worthy of Worship"

*Worthy of worship, worthy of praise, worthy of honor and glory;  
worthy of all the glad songs we can sing, worthy of all of the offerings we bring.*

*You are worthy, Father, Creator. You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.  
You are worthy, worthy of wonderful; worthy of worship and praise.*

*Worthy of reverence, worthy of fear, worthy of love and devotion;  
worthy of bowing and bending of knees, worthy of all of this and added to these—*

*You are worthy, Father, Creator. You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.  
You are worthy, worthy of wonderful; worthy of worship and praise.*

*Almighty Father, Master and Lord, King of all kings and Redeemer,  
Wonderful Counselor, Comforter Friend, Savior and Source of our life without end.*

*You are worthy, Father, Creator. You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.  
You are worthy, worthy of wonderful; worthy of worship and praise.*

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Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your hands**

**and feet in a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Congregational Response #270

**O how he loves you and me, O how he loves you and me.  
He gave his life—what more could he give? O how he loves you;  
O how he loves me, O how he loves you and me.**

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Time with the Children (Kids spell Love T-I-M-E)

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

**...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.  
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

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Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

## GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture

*Revelation 5:1-14; 7:9-10*

*1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory*

and praise!" 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" 14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (NIV)

Sermon

"Worthy of Worship"

The Gift of Praise and Blessing—based on Psalm 67

**Almighty God, be gracious to us and bless us  
and make your face to shine upon us,  
that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.**

**Empower all the peoples to praise you, O God,  
that the nations may be glad and sing for joy.  
For you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.**

**Enable all the peoples to praise you, O God,  
for the earth has yielded its increase  
and you, our God, have blessed us.**

**We ask that you will continue to bless us  
so that all the ends of the earth will revere you. Amen.**

#### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

Hymn #103

"Glory to the Lamb"

*Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb. Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb.  
For he is glorious, and worthy to be praised, the Lamb upon the throne;  
And unto him we lift our voice in praise, the Lamb upon the throne.*

*Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb.  
For he is glorious, and worthy to be praised, the Lamb upon the throne;  
And unto him we lift our voice in praise, the Lamb upon the throne.*

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb. Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.  
For he is glorious, and worthy to be praised, the Lamb upon the throne;  
And unto him we lift our voice in praise, the Lamb upon the throne.*

*Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb. Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb.  
For he is glorious, and worthy to be praised, the Lamb upon the throne;  
And unto him we lift our voice in praise, the Lamb upon the throne.*

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Benediction

*Thank you for worshiping with us!*



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*Declaring God's Grace & Demonstrating God's Love, as  
Directed by God's Word*