



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Ordinary Time

5 September 2021

What is of crucial significance is whether [we] are one with Christ in faith, and are clothed with his perfect righteousness. The all-important factor for determining man's eternal destiny is his relationship to Jesus Christ.

—Anthony Hoekema

Q. What comfort is it that Christ will come to judge the living and the dead? A. In all my distress and persecution, I turn my eyes to the heavens, and confidently await as judge the very One who has already stood trial in my place before God and has removed the whole curse from me. — Heidelberg Catechism, #52

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—from Matthew 8:2b-3

Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed."

Introit—Come, Thou Almighty King, Vs. 1



Come, Thou Al - might - y King, help us Thy name to sing,



Help us to praise! Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!

Text: Anonymous, 1757; Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1769.

Call to Worship—from 1 Chronicles 16:8-12

Pastor: Oh, give thanks to the Lord!

All: Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!

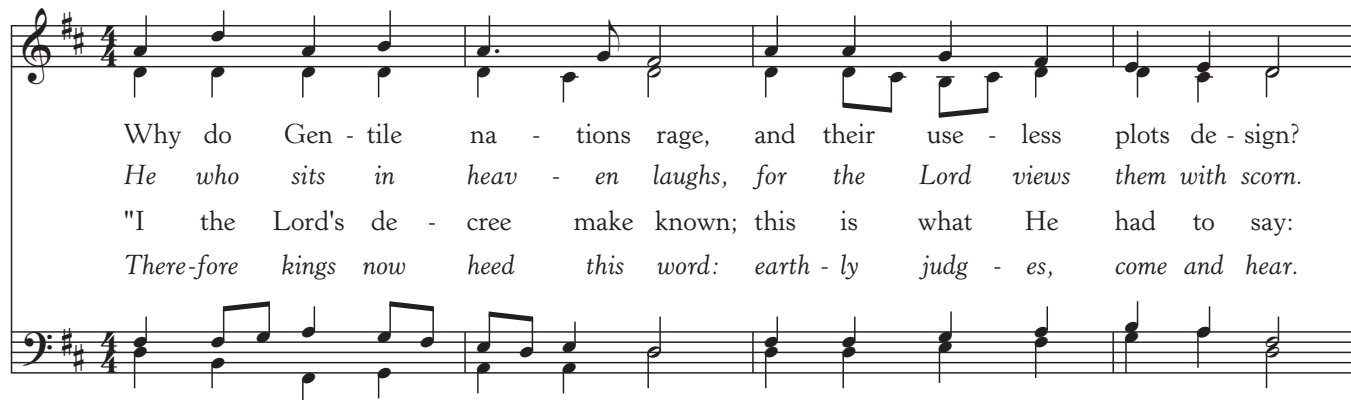
Reader 1: Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!

Reader 2: Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

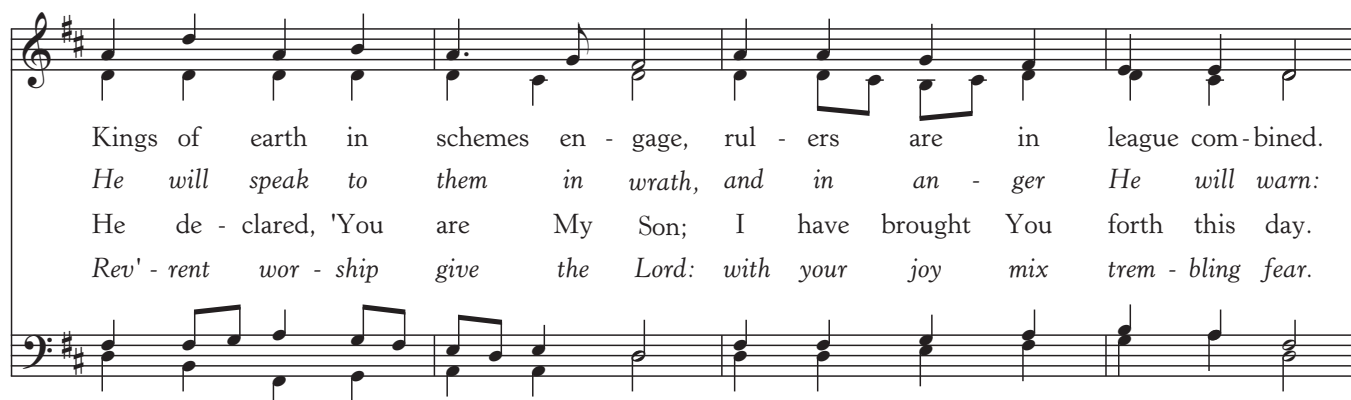
All: Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore!

Pastor: Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders and the judgments of His mouth.

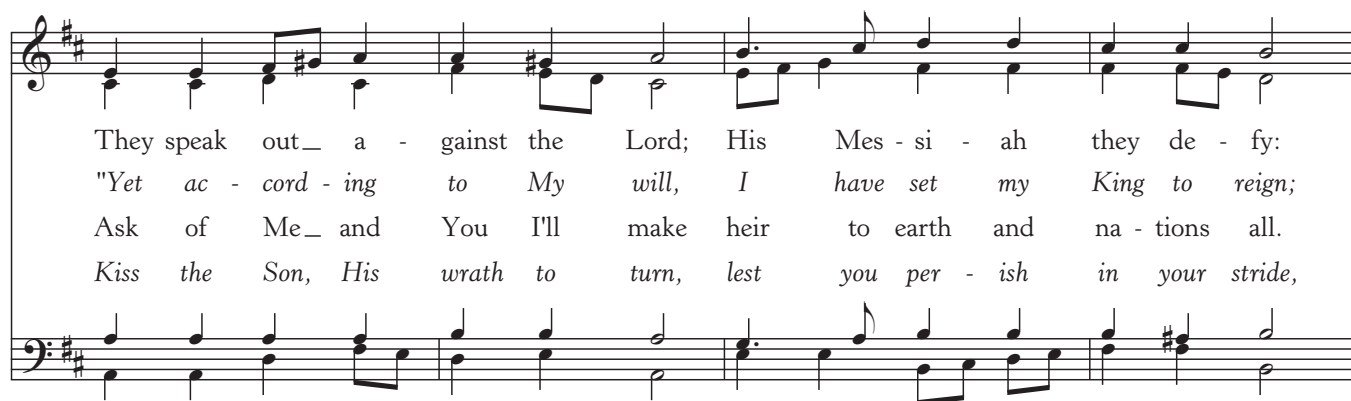
Psalm of Praise—Why Do Gentile Nations Rage (Psalm 2)



Why do Gen - tile na - tions rage, and their use - less plots de - sign?
He who sits in heav - en laughs, for the Lord views them with scorn.
"I the Lord's de - cree make known; this is what He had to say:
There - fore kings now heed this word: earth - ly judg - es, come and hear.



Kings of earth in schemes en - gage, rul - ers are in league com - bined.
He will speak to them in wrath, and in an - ger He will warn:
He de - clared, 'You are My Son; I have brought You forth this day.
Rev' - rent wor - ship give the Lord: with your joy mix trem - bling fear.



They speak out_ a - gainst the Lord; His Mes - si - ah they de - fy:
"Yet ac - cord - ing to My will, I have set my King to reign;
Ask of Me_ and You I'll make heir to earth and na - tions all.
Kiss the Son, His wrath to turn, lest you per - ish in your stride,



"Let us break their chains and cords, let us cast them off," they cry.
And on Zi - on's ho - ly hill, My A - noint - ed will re - main."
Them with i - ron rod you'll break, smash - ing them in piec - es small."
For His an - ger soon may burn; blessed are all who in Him hide.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Psalm of Praise—In Judah The Almighty's Known (Psalm 76)



In Ju - dah the Al - migh - ty's known, (Al - migh - ty there by_ won - ders shown,)
Those val - iant chiefs that came for spoil, them-selves met there a_ shame - ful foil;
From heav'n on high earth heard its doom; it stilled with fear, when You did come



His name is great in Is - ra - el; His house of prayer in_ Sa - lem stands;
Se - cure - ly down to sleep, they lay: they wake no more; their stout - est band
To save the hum-ble and the poor: The wrath of man shall yield You praise;



The maj - es - ty that heav'n com-mands in Zi - on con - de - scends to dwell.
Could not lift a re - sis - ting hand a - gainst the Lord up - on that day.
their last at - tempts but serve to raise the tri - umphs of our migh - ty Lord.



He broke the flash - ing ar - rows there, des - troyed their weap - ons, sword and spear,
When Ja - cob's God be - gan to frown, the horse and ri - ders o - ver - thrown
Vow to the Lord, you na - tions; bring your gifts to the e - te - rnal King.;



For slain the migh - ty ar - my lay; then Zi - on's fame on earth is spread,
To - ge - ther slept in end - less night. When You, whom earth and heav - en fear,
To Him due rev - 'rence you shall pay: the proud - est kings that here do dwell;



Of grea - ter glo - ry, _ grea - ter dread, than hills where li - ons take their prey.
Do once with wrath - ful_ look ap - pear, can mor - tals stand with - in Your sight?
And earth - ly ru - lers_ ter - ri - ble, will fear the Lord up - on His day.

Text: *A New Version of the Psalms of David*, 1696, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2021;
Music: RODERICK, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

Scripture Reading—Matthew 16:24-28

Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise—The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



The King shall come when morn-ing dawns, and light tri - um - phant breaks;
Not as of old a lit - tle child to bear, and fight, and die,
The King shall come when morn-ing dawns, and earth's dark night is past;
And let the end - less bliss be - gin, by wear - y saints fore - told,

When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills, and life to joy a - wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
O haste the ris - ing of that morn, the day that e'er shall last.
When right shall tri - umph ov - er wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.

Text: Ancient Greek Hymn, Tr. John Brownlie, 1907; Music: MORNING SONG, Elkanah Kelsay Dare, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816.

Reading of the Word—Zephaniah 1:1-2:3

¹The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah. ²“I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord. ³“I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord. ⁴“I will stretch out My hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests along with the priests, ⁵those who bow down on the roofs to the host of the heavens, those who bow down and swear to the Lord and yet swear by Milcom, ⁶those who have turned back from following the Lord, who do not seek the Lord or inquire of Him.”

⁷Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated His guests. ⁸And on the day of the Lord’s sacrifice—“I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master’s house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰“On that day,” declares the Lord, “a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, ‘The Lord will not do good, nor will He do ill.’ ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.”

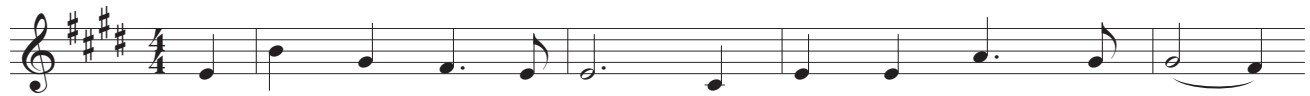
¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷ I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. In the fire of His jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end He will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

^{2:1} Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation, ² before the decree takes effect—before the day passes away like chaff—before there comes upon you the burning anger of the Lord, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the Lord. ³ Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do His just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—The Mighty God, The Lord (Psalm 50), Vs. 2



Our God shall sure - ly come, and si - lence shall not keep;—



Be - fore Him fire shall waste, and storms tem - pes - tuous round Him sweep.



He to the heav'ns a - bove shall then send forth His call,



And like-wise to the earth, that He may judge His peo - ple all.

Text: Psalm 50:3-4, *The Scottish Psalter*, 1650;
Music: 17th C. Scottish Melody, Adapted by Gregory Wilbur, 1998.

Sermon—Day of Wrath

—Assistant Pastor, James Crampton

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Romans 1:18-23, 25

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You have revealed Your wrath against our ungodliness and unrighteousness. For what can be known about God is plain to us, because God has shown it to us. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So we are without excuse.

All: For although we knew God, we did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him.

Pastor: But we became futile in our thinking, and our foolish hearts were darkened.

All: Claiming to be wise, we became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Pastor: We exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon—based on Psalm 27:4-5, 13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple. For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock. I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Pastor: He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Sung Response—O Lord Teach Me To Follow You (Psalm 27), Vs. 4



With pa - tience wait up - on the Lord, O let your strength be great;



And so let cour-age fill your heart as on the Lord you wait.

HEAVENLY GIFT—EUCCHARISTO

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

WOMEN

MEN

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might Hea-ven and Earth are full of Your glo-ry, Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hos-

Lord. Hos-san-na, Hos-san-na, Hos-san-na in the high-est.

san-na, Hos-san-na, Hos-san-na in the high-est.

Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9; Music: CLOVERCROFT SANCTUS, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Hymn of Praise—Not What My Hands Have Done

Not what my hands have done can save my guilt - ty soul;
Your voice a - lone, O Lord, can speak to me of grace;
I praise the Christ of God; I rest on love div - ine;

Not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can make my spir - it whole.
Your pow'r a - lone, O Son of God, can all my sin e - rase.
And with un - fal - t'ring lip and heart I call this Sav - ior mine.

Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
No oth - er work but Yours, no oth - er blood will do;
My Lord has saved my life and free - ly par - don gives;

Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load.
No strength but that which is div - ine can bear me safe - ly through.
I love be - cause He first loved me, I live be - cause He lives.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1861; Music: LEOMINSTER, George W. Martin, 1862.

Hymn of Praise—Rock Of Ages, Cleft For Me

Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in Thee;
Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill Thy law's de - mands;
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, simp - ly to the cross I cling;
While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,

Let the wa - ter and the blood, from Thy wound - ed side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Nak - ed, come to Thee for dress; help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, see Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,

Be of sin the doub - le cure; save from wrath and make me pure.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus Toplady, 1776; Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1830.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—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.*

Hymn of Praise—Jesus, Lover Of My Soul

Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to Thy bo - som fly,
Oth - er ref - uge have I none, hangs my help - less soul on Thee;
Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in Thee I find:
Plen - teous grace with Thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin;

While the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high:
Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and com - fort me!
Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in:

Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;
Just and ho - ly is Thy name; I am all un - righ - teous - ness;
Thou of life the foun - tain art, free - ly let me take of Thee;

Safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!
Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of Thy wing.
False and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.
Spring Thou up with - in my heart, rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1740; Music: MARTYN, Simeon B. Marsh, 1834.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Christ Be With Me (from St. Patrick's Breastplate)



Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,



Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re-store me,



Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui-et, Christ in dan-ger,



Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stran-ger.

Text: *Atomriug indui niurt tren*, St. Patrick, 5th Century, Tr. Cecil Frances Alexander, 1889;

Music: ST. PATRICK CLONMACNOISE, Traditional Irish Hymn Melody.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

The thirteenth century *Dies irae* (“Day of Wrath”) is one of the best-known hymns of the middle ages. Containing terrifying descriptions of the “tearful day” (*Lacrimosa*) in which the wicked are confounded (*Confutatis maledictis*) and consigned to “acid flames,” this poem became a standard part of the medieval funeral liturgy. As such, it has been set to music numerous times by composers such as Mozart (*Requiem K. 626*, 1791) and Verdi (*Messa de Requiem*, 1874). Further, the chant melody first associated with this text, with its seesawing half-step motion, is often used as a musical trope indicating death, mourning, or the supernatural. You can hear it in places as varied as Berlioz’s *Symphonie Fantastique* (1830), Holst’s *The Planets* (1919), and the scores for movies like *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977) and *The Lion King* (1994) among others. While *Dies Irae* has had enormous cultural influence, the source material might surprise you: the poem was inspired by the prophecy of Zephaniah, specifically verses 15-16 of chapter one (“a day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish...”). As we walk through this passage today, a passage that has fascinated and terrified for generations, I pray that our hearts will be lifted by the surprisingly hopeful note at the end: “perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.” —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Wicked, Day of the Lord, Punish, Wrath, Anger, Seek, Humble, Hidden
Keystone Verses: Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do His just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord. (Zephaniah 2:3)



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Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.