

Welcome & Call to Worship

Hymn - MP 269 - I do not know what lies ahead

1. I do not know what lies ahead,
the way I cannot see;
yet one who stands near to be my guide,
He'll show the way to me:
*I know who holds the future,
and He'll guide me with His hand;
with God things don't just happen,
everything by Him is planned.*
So as I face tomorrow,
with its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles,
give to Him my all.

2. I do not know how many days
of life are mine to spend;
but one who knows and cares for me
will keep me to the end:
*I know who holds the future,
and He'll guide me with His hand;
with God things don't just happen,
everything by Him is planned.*
So as I face tomorrow,
with its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles,
give to Him my all.

3. I do not know the course ahead,
what joys and griefs are there;
but one is near who fully knows,
I'll trust His loving care:
*I know who holds the future,
and He'll guide me with His hand;
with God things don't just happen,
everything by Him is planned.*
So as I face tomorrow,
with its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles,
give to Him my all.

Prayer

Hymn – MP 428 - Lord, for the years

1. Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
4. Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt You,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5. Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Reading: Acts 28:17-31 - ¹⁷Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: "My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. ¹⁸ They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. ¹⁹ The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar. I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people. ²⁰ For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain." ²¹ They replied, "We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. ²² But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect." ²³ They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. ²⁴ Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. ²⁵ They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet: ²⁶ "Go to this people and say, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." ²⁷ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' ²⁸ "Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!" ^[29] ³⁰ For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Hymn - MP 673 - There is a Redeemer

1. There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.
*Thank You, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.*
2. Jesus, my Redeemer,
name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain:
*Thank You, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.*

(Continued overleaf)

3. When I stand in glory
I will see His face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever
in that holy place.

*Thank You, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.*

Sermon

Prayer

Hymn - MP 442 - Lord of the Church

1. Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing:
Christ over all, our undivided aim;
fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,
wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,
the will that lacks the courage to be free,
the weary labours, all but unavailing,
to bring us nearer what a church should be.

2. Lord of the Church, we seek a Father's blessing,
a true repentance and a faith restored,
a swift obedience and a new possessing,
filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!
We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,
unnumbered voices with a single prayer –
the living water for our souls' reviving,
in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.

3. Lord of the Church, we long for our uniting,
true to one calling, by one vision stirred;
one cross proclaiming and one creed reciting,
one in the truth of Jesus and His word!
So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,
one Church triumphant one new song shall sing,
to praise His glory, risen and ascended,
Christ over all, the everlasting King!

Dedication of the Offering

Hymn - MP 399 - Lead, kindly Light

1. Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
lead Thou me on;
the night is dark, and I am far from home;
lead Thou me on.
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
the distant scene; one step enough for me.

2. I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
lead Thou me on.
I loved the garish day, and spite of fears,
pride ruled my will; remember not past years.

3. So long Thy power has blest me, sure it still
will lead me on,
o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
the night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile
which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

Benediction

Hymn - MP 460 – May God's blessing

May God's blessing surround you each day,
as you trust Him and walk in His way.
May His presence within guard and keep you from sin,
go in peace, go in joy, go in love.