

## MBC Worship Service - May 2, 2021

### Call to Worship

There is none like you, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.

**All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.**

**For you are great and do wondrous things,  
you alone are God.**

—from Psalm 86:8-10

### Call to Confession

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us,  
we often act in destructive and hateful ways.  
We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law.  
Together let us confess our sin.

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,  
in your gracious presence  
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.  
Although Christ is among us as our peace,  
we are a people divided against ourselves  
as we cling to the values of a broken world.  
The profit and pleasures we pursue  
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.  
The fears and jealousies that we harbor  
set neighbor against neighbor**

and nation against nation.

**We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,  
of intellect and reason,  
and turn them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us;  
heal and forgive us.**

**Set us free to serve you in the world  
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

### Responsive Reading Psalm 37:12-19

The wicked plots against the righteous  
and gnashes his teeth at him,

**but the Lord laughs at the wicked,  
for he sees that his day is coming.**

The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows  
to bring down the poor and needy,  
to slay those whose way is upright;

**their sword shall enter their own heart,  
and their bows shall be broken.**

Better is the little that the righteous has  
than the abundance of many wicked.

**For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,**

**but the Lord upholds the righteous.**

The Lord knows the days of the blameless,  
and their heritage will remain forever;

**they are not put to shame in evil times;**

**in the days of famine they have abundance.**

## Sermon: Laughing at Tyrants

Text: Esther 1:13-22

Big Idea: God laughs at tyrants.

- Outline:
1. Laughing at the King
  2. God Laughs at the King
  3. Laughing at Our Tyrants
  4. Laughing at Ourselves
  5. God Redeems Laughingstocks

## Institution of the Bread

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." - 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

## Institution of the Cup

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. - 1 Corinthians 11:25-26

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Eternal God,  
you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,**

**and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the sacrament of his body and blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart,  
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## Benediction

As we go, know that we go  
with the love of God the Father,  
the grace of God the Son,  
and the fellowship of God the Spirit.

**Amen**