



🌀Prelude

🌀**Invocation:** In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, we worship together on this Sunday Morning.

For Chinese Pinyin lyrics, please scan:



🕊️歡呼主耶穌 All Hail King Jesus

🎵 All Hail King Jesus. All Hail Emmanuel.
King of all Kings, Lord of all Lords.
Bright Morning Star.
Throughout All Eternity. I will praise Him.
And Forevermore I will reign with Him.

🕊️奔向愛我的神 So I Will Run

🎵 Heavenly King, mighty and great.
Yet You overflow with grace.
You show Your love to those who keep
All Your covenant and ways
🎵 Faithful and true, You're here with me.
Full of mercy and saving grace.
Time and again, You hear my prayer.
Go before me and lead the way.
🎵 So I will run to the God who saves me
Lift up a shout, praising His name
Glorifying the Father
🎵 So I will run to the God who loves me
I will not fear, I will not faint

🕊️在這個時刻 In Moments Like These

🎵 In moments like these I sing out a song,
I sing out a love song to Jesus.
In moments like these I lift up my hands,
I lift up my hands to the Lord.
🎵 (Singing I love You, Lord.) x3 I love You.

🌀Responsive Reading: **Psalm 95:1-7**

- 1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.,
- 3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
- 7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice,

🌀Praise

🕊️我知道我救贖主活著

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

1 I know that my Redeemer liveth,

And on the earth again shall stand;
I know eternal life He giveth,
That grace and power are in His hand.

Chorus:

I know, I know that Jesus liveth,
And on the earth again shall stand;
I know, I know that life He giveth,
That grace and power are in His hand.
2 I know His promise never faileth,
The word He speaks, it cannot die;
Though cruel death my flesh assaileth,
Yet I shall see Him by and by.

🌀Special Music

🕊️讓我們齊歡呼 Let us Sing

🎵 With He Lives/O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing/
O Worship the King. [Sing, sing,] x 4
(Sing the mighty power of God.) x 2
{ O Worship the King, worship the King.
Come let us sing to the King }
Lift up your voice and sing, Sing to the King.
Worship Christ the King, the King!
(Sing the mighty power of God.) x 2 { } The King!

He Lives

🎵 Rejoice, rejoice O Christian!
Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King!
Let us lift our voice with shouts of joy and adore
our wonderful King.
Let us fill this place with songs of praise and adore
our wonderful King.
<Let us sing! (Let us all together sing.)
Let us shout! (Let us gladly sing and shout.)
Let us praise! (let us sing with songs of praise)
And adore our wonderful King>
(Lord and King) < >

And adore our wonderful King O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

🎵 O for a thousand tongues to sing our great Redeemer's praise.
The glories of my God and King.

O worship the King

🎵 O worship the King, All glorious above.
And gratefully sing, gratefully sing!
< >*2 Sing to the King.
(Sing the mighty power of God)
(O worship the King) x 2 Come and let us sing!

🌀Scripture Reading: **Esther 9:16; 4:14,16 (NIV)**

Esther 9:16

Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king's provinces also **assembled to protect themselves and get relief from their enemies**. They **killed** seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder.

Esther 4:14, 16

14 For if you remain silent at this time, **relief and deliverance** for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who

knows but that you have come to your royal position **for such a time as this?**

16 Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and **fast** for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will **fast** as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, **even though it is against the law**. And **if I perish, I perish**.

Sermon: Peace is Won

- Pastor Hsu

I. "Peace Without Fear," Not "Peace Without Trouble"!

1. Troubles Arise Unprovoked: **(Esther 3:1, 6, 9, 13)**

Esther 3:1, 6, 9, 13

1 After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles.

6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents^a of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury."

13 Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

Mordecai refused to bow down to the wicked Haman; Haman bribed and deceived the king, issuing a decree on January 13 to kill all the Jews and seize their property on December 13.

January 14 is Passover; Satan tries to destroy our faith in God!

2. Peace is a Bold Fearlessness: **(Esther 3:2, 4:14)**

Esther 3:2, 4:14

3:2 All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.

4:14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Mordecai stood firm in not bowing to Haman the Agagite, even at the cost of his life! Despite the decree of massacre, he believed God was in control and that deliverance and salvation would come.

II. Peace Comes from "Facing Battle," Not "Avoiding Battle"!

1. Mordecai Faces Battle: **(Esther 4:1, 8; 5:9; 6:1, 10)**

Esther 4:1, 8; 5:9; 6:1, 10

4:1 When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.

8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

5:9 Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai.

6:1 That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.

10 "Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended."

Mordecai, upon knowing the decree, fasted and prayed in sackcloth and ashes; he instructed Esther to go before the king, risking her life to plead for the Jews; he persistently refused to bow to Haman!

That night, Haman plotted evil, the king couldn't sleep, and Mordecai was honored instead of executed.

2. Esther Faces Battle: **(Esther 4:11, 15-16; 5:4, 7; 7:3-4; 8:3, 11-12)**

Esther 4:11, 15-16; 5:4, 7; 7:3-4; 8:3, 11-12

11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do.

When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

5:4 “If it pleases the king,” replied Esther, “let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.”

7 Esther replied, “My petition and my request is this:

7:3 Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request.

4 For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.^[a]”

8:3 Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews.

11 The king’s edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children,^[a] and to plunder the property of their enemies.

12 The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

Esther obeyed Mordecai's instructions, realizing her royal position was for such a time as this. She fasted and prayed for three days, then bravely approached the king against the law.

She received the king's pardon, and with wisdom, she made her request, pleading for her people's lives!

She wept for her people, leading to a new decree on March 23, allowing the Jews to gather and protect themselves, killing their enemies.

3. God’s People Face Battle: (Esther 9:1-2, 16)

Esther 9:1-2, 16

1 On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them.

2 The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them.

16 Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king’s provinces also assembled to protect themselves and get relief from their enemies. They

killed seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder.

On December 13, the day of destruction became a day of justice; God had mercy on His people, and they courageously gathered, attacking their enemies and removing the wicked, achieving peace!

Peace is not passive waiting or avoiding battle; peace is actively facing battle, removing enemies!

Through Haman’s evil law, enemies were exposed and destroyed through a great crisis! Jesus, through His death, destroyed the one who holds the power of death, freeing us to have life!

Trials expose our weaknesses and darkness, but through the Lord, we achieve holiness, victory, and crowns!

III. Peace Comes from "Having the Lord," Not "Having Money"!

1. Not Coveting Wealth: (Esther 9:10, 15, 16; 3:13, 9)

Esther 9:10, 15, 16; 3:13, 9

9:10 the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

15 The Jews in Susa came together on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they put to death in Susa three hundred men, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

16 Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king’s provinces also assembled to protect themselves and get relief from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder.

3:13 Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king’s provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents^[a] of silver to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.”

The people of Judah attacked their enemies but didn't take any of their belongings.

Their motive wasn't greed but self-defense. In contrast, Haman used money to lure people into his evil plan to kill others.

He bribed the king, giving 340 tons of silver to the treasury to gain wealth and commit murder!

People often think that having money, resources, and connections brings safety, but these things are very fragile!

2. **Obeying God: (Exodus 17:16; Deuteronomy 25:17, 19; 1 Samuel 15:3, 18-19)**

Exodus 17:16 He said, "Because hands were lifted up against[a] the throne of the Lord,[b] the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

Deuteronomy 25:17 Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. **19** When the Lord your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

1 Samuel 15:3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy[a] all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys."

18 And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.'

19 Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?"

Why didn't the Jews take their enemies' property?

A thousand years earlier, God commanded the Israelites to destroy the Amalekites. Mordecai's actions were not out of greed but fulfilling God's command!

Five hundred years earlier, God reminded King Saul to attack King Agag of the Amalekites and destroy everything without taking any plunder; Saul failed. Mordecai, a descendant of Saul, completely obeyed God by destroying Haman and his sons, descendants of the Amalekites.

God's words will be fulfilled, and His servants must act, not keeping God waiting!

Peace does not come from wealth but from obeying God; the Lord is our peace!

Fight with the Lord, and have peace without fear!

☞ **Responsive Hymn**

✠ 爭戰之歌 **Song of Battle**

♪ Jesus' time has been coming;

Evil power has been falling;

People to God, listen to God; God is leading;

♪ Never mind what enemy shouts,

God's thunder falls from heaven,
When sun rises, Take over Satan's site!

♪ Victors have come!

Countries need to see God's glory,
People raise their hands; Declare with belief.
Awake and pray. Jesus has won!

Chosen ones no one can sue;

My Lord's kingdom is coming! Lamb gets glory!

☞ **Announcement**

1. **Father's Day Gospel Meeting:** "Why Are My Family Members So Adorable?" - A Life Story Sharing by Pastor Xu Kun-Jing's Family will be held on Saturday, 8/3, at 2:00 PM on the 4th floor of the chapel. Everyone is welcome to invite friends and family to join and enjoy the gospel together.

2. **Freshman Course Selection Seminar:** For incoming college freshmen, a course selection seminar will be held on Friday, 8/9 and 8/16, at 1:30 PM in the Yun Cai Hall on the first floor. Seniors will share essential knowledge for course selection, system operations, and recommend good courses. Incoming freshmen are welcome to attend.

3. **Book Launch Event:** Sister Huang You-Ling's new book, "I Forgot I Could Be This Happy!", following her successful "Happy Writing", has just been published. The book launch will be held on Saturday, 8/10 at 12:00 PM in the B1 chapel. Brothers and sisters are welcome to attend (registration will open next week).

4. **Important Announcements for All Members:** Major announcements related to the church and all its members (such as suspension of morning prayers due to a typhoon, church closures, etc.) will be promptly communicated through the Harmony Church official website, Facebook page, and various LINE groups. Please stay informed and attentive.

5. **Bible Reading Schedule for This Week:** This week's unified Bible reading schedule is Isaiah chapters 13 to 15. Please visit the Harmony Church website (<http://www.ctfhc.org>) to watch the "Logos Gateway" and "The Bible is Wonderful" programs.

☞ **The Lord's Prayer**

☞ **Doxology**

☞ **Benediction**

Today, our worship service together is coming to an end. Emmanuel! May our good Lord bless you!