

of such as deserve eternal death, and that no other relief remains for us but Your infinite mercy, and that we may so seek to become partakers of that grace which has been once offered to us by Your Son, and is daily offered to us by His gospel, that, relying on Him as our Mediator, we may not cease to entertain hope even in the midst of thousand deaths, until we may be gathered into that blessed life, which has been procured for us by the blood of Your only Son. In His name we pray. Amen.”<sup>1</sup>

**Monday 4/21** **Read:** Zephaniah 1:14-18. Review your sermon notes from yesterday. How does this message apply to you? Not others from whom you can distance yourself. How and why do you rightly deserve the wrath of God? How can you communicate this message to your neighbors and friends?

**Pray:** “Lord God! Eternal and Almighty Father, we acknowledge and confess before Your holy Majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of ourselves to do any good, who, by reason of our depravity, transgress without end Your holy commandments. Therefore, we have drawn upon ourselves, by Your just sentence, condemnation and death. But, Oh Lord, with heartfelt sorrow, we repent and deplore our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true penitence, beseeching that Your grace may relieve our distress. “Be pleased to have compassion on us, O most gracious God, Father of all mercies, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt and our pollution, grant us the daily increase of the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that acknowledging from our inmost heart our own unrighteousness, we may be touched with sorrow that shall work true repentance, and that Your Spirit, mortifying all sin within us, may produce the fruits of holiness and righteousness well pleasing in Your sight. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”<sup>2</sup>

**Tuesday 4/22** **Read:** Joel 2:1-17. How is this description of the Day of the Lord similar to Zephaniah? How is it different? What is the point of the warning? How should God’s people respond? How is this similar to Zephaniah 2:3?

**Pray:** Confess your sin as you believe appropriate according to what God reveals about our sin and culpability. Thank Him anew for the forgiveness He has provided in Christ.

**Wednesday 4/23** **Read:** Amos 5:18-27. How do we guard against presumption? How do we rest in Christ? Is it possible to do both? How or why not?

**Pray:** “Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak, and blameless when you judge. Amen.”<sup>3</sup>

**Thursday 4/24** **Read** aloud God’s warning of covenant curses, in Jeremiah 11:1-17. What is the fate of those in the church who are not faithful? Why does God’s anger burn for them? What should our response be to these types of passages? How does Christ answer them? Does He set them aside?

**Pray:** Ask God to make clear to you the ways in which you have failed to keep covenant with Him. Confess those things that the Holy Spirit brings to your mind. Make restitution for insults or injuries to others.

**Friday 4/25** **Read** again Zephaniah 1:1-18. Review your sermon notes from Sunday. How does this message apply to you given your increased knowledge of the Day of the Lord? How and why do you rightly deserve the wrath of God? Why is Christ your only hope? How are you introducing your neighbors, co-workers, and friends to this great hope?

**Pray:** “Almighty, eternal, merciful God and Father, we poor sinners confess that we have sinned in many ways against You and Your commandments. We have broken Your law in more ways than we can count.

“We have not loved You above all else. We have put other things before You and worshipped falsely. We have erected idols in our hearts and chased after other gods. We have misused Your name and profaned your honor. We have not kept the Sabbath holy, nor have we rejoiced in the time that You give us, but have grumbled and been negligent.

“We confess that we have not honored our parents and have been disobedient and disrespectful of those You have placed in authority over us. We have not respected life, but have murdered in our hearts, venting our anger against our neighbors whom we are to love. We have been unchaste in our thoughts and have allowed our desires to dwell on things that we shouldn’t. We have stolen and we acknowledge our greed. Instead of thinking of others, we put ourselves first. We have born false witness, speaking half-truths and things that we know are not right. We have coveted things and people that belong to others. We acknowledge in summary that our whole life is nothing else

<sup>1-2</sup> These prayers were written by John Calvin.

<sup>3</sup> This prayer is from Psalm 51.

<sup>4</sup> Based on a prayer written by Martin Bucer in 1539.

than sin and transgression of Your holy commandments and an inclination toward all evil.

“Therefore we beg of You, O heavenly Father, that You would graciously forgive us these and all our sins. Keep and preserve us that we may walk only in Your ways and live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, our Savior. Amen.<sup>4</sup>

**Saturday 4/26** Read in preparation for tomorrow Zephaniah 2:1-3.

**Pray:** “Lord, let me with Your people gather,  
not because of my worthiness,  
let me at Your side take shelter,  
and sing Your praise with humbleness.

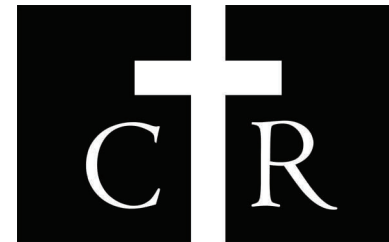
“Let us with You, Dear Lord, commune  
Know Your mercy and not Your rage  
Let us know Your loving face  
And not be consumed as chaff.

**Prepare** for the Lord’s Day.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

## Zephaniah-The Day of the Lord

Week of April 20, 2008



**CHRIST** *the*  
**REDEEMER**

■ **PRESBYTERIAN** ■

**T**he Day of the Lord is foretold again and again throughout Scripture. It is simultaneously the longed for visitation of God and the dreaded day of reckoning. Zephaniah helps us to see the immediacy of this impending day and the utter horror of facing it apart from Christ. This week we will explore the Scripture’s teaching about this great day. Let us pray that God will help us to live in the light of His coming.

**Reading this week from Zephaniah 1:14-18**

**Sunday 4/20** **Read:** Zephaniah 1:1-18. What is the prophet warning the people of Judah about? What is the warning to us today? Is this a real warning about a clear and present danger or just hysteria? How do you know? What realities in your life can you point to that give evidence to your really believing this?

**Pray:** Grant, Almighty God, that as You urge us to repentance daily and each of us is stung with the consciousness of his own sins—O grant that we may not grow stupid in our own vices, nor deceive ourselves with empty flatteries, but that each of us may, on the contrary, carefully examine his own life, and then with one mouth and heart confess that we are all guilty, not only of light offences, but