



The Sacrifice of Elijah Before the Priests of Baal, Domenico Fetti (1618-1620)

September 20, 2026

Reflections

"I got everything I ever wanted and felt empty inside."

Johnny Manziel, former NFL quarterback

"Bought a bunch of makeup, tryna cover up my face
I started to skip lunch, stopped eatin' cake on birthdays
I bought a new prescription to try and stay calm
'Cause there's always somethin' missin'
There's always somethin' in the mirror that I think looks wrong
When pretty isn't pretty enough, what do you do?"

Olivia Rodrigo, "pretty isn't pretty"

"God is God and there is no hope for non-gods who want to be gods, except through the God-man who became a curse for us."

Kevin DeYoung

"Jesus must become more beautiful to your imagination, more attractive to your heart, than your idol. That is what will replace your counterfeit gods. If you uproot the idol and fail to 'plant' the love of Christ in its place, the idol will grow back."

Tim Keller

"Surely, goodness will follow me
Every promise will be light to my feet
When my heart is prone to wandering
Jesus, you shepherd me"

Crowder, "Shepherd"

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art;
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel vision, no op'ning skies;
But take the dimness of my soul away.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?
All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see Thy cross; there teach me to cling:
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The presence of Thy descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.

**Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.**

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.

**For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

Psalm 86:8-13

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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy!

Lord God Almighty

Early in the morning

Our song shall rise to Thee

Holy, holy, holy!

Merciful and mighty

God in three persons

Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!

Though the darkness hide Thee

Though the eye of sinful man

Thy glory may not see

Only Thou art holy

There is none beside Thee

Perfect in power, in love and purity

Holy, holy, holy!

Lord God Almighty

All Thy works shall praise Thy name

In earth and sky and sea

Holy, holy, holy!

Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity

PRAISE SONG

How Great Is Our God

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, You have made us for Yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in You. Our hearts are restless because our loyalties are divided, and we often doubt your care for us and

wander away from you. When our time, treasure, and comfort are threatened by the worries and pressures of this world or the cost of following you, we turn to our own efforts and false idols thinking they can provide for us.

Forgive us, Lord. Heal our divided hearts and minds. Help us to worship you alone. And find in you our refuge and strength. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:9-10, 13

RENEWAL SONG

We Are Not Overcome

Flesh will fail, and bones will break;
thieves will steal, the earth will shake.
Night will fall, the light will fade;
The Lord will give and take away:

Because of His great love,
we are not overcome!
Because of His great love,
we are not overcome!

Put no trust in the earth,
in the sod you stand upon.
Flowers fade into dust;
The Lord will make a place for us:

Have no fear for your life;
turn your cheek! turn your cheek!
Bear the yoke of love and death;
The Lord will give all life and breath:

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LIFE TOGETHER

CHILDREN DISMISSED

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“Will the Real God Please Stand Up?”

Ethan Smith

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” ¹⁸ And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.”

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹ And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. ²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.” ²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.” ²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. ²⁷ And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.” ²⁸ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. ²⁹ And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,” ³² and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the

altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. ³³ And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." ³⁴ And he said, "Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. ³⁵ And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. ³⁷ Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." ³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God." ⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

1 Kings 18:17-40

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Your Word (Isaiah 55)

Your Word will do
What you sent it to do
Your Word has overcome
Your Word is true,
And it's taking root
Making all things new in us

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Hast Thou Heard Him, Seen Him, Known Him?

Hast thou heard Him, seen Him, known Him?

Is not thine a captured heart?
Chief among ten thousand own Him,
Joyful choose the better part.

Captivated by His beauty,
Worthy tribute haste to bring.
Let His peerless worth constrain thee,
Crown Him now unrivaled King.

What can strip the seeming beauty,
From the idols of the earth?
Not a sense of right or duty,
But the sight of peerless worth.

'Tis that look that melted Peter,
'Tis that face that Stephen saw,
'Tis that heart that wept with Mary,
Can alone from idols draw.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

Take My Heart with Altar Fire

All seeing God you see my deeds
You see my faults by light of day
You see my sins concealed in darkness

Turn my deeds to holy ways
Turn my deeds to holy ways

All hearing God you hear my words
You hear each lie each hurtful phrase
You hear my pride in secret slander
Turn my tongue to truth and grace
Turn my tongue to truth and grace

Take away my love of sinning
Straighten every bent desire
Fix my soul upon your promise
Take my heart with altar fire
Take my heart with altar fire

All knowing God you know my heart
You know my yearnings deep inside
You know my hidden motivations
Turn my heart to pure delight
Turn my heart to pure delight

Fire of God consume my heart
And burn it down to only faith
Til all that's left of me is only you
Christ my glory Christ my praise

SENDING

SENDING SONG

All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race
Ye ransomed from the fall
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all

Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all

Let ev'ry kindred ev'ry tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

LIFE TOGETHER

HOPE FOR THE CITY

YoungLives: Childcare is needed on Monday nights. See Looking Up for signup.

CHURCH LIFE

Adult Sunday School: The Goodness of the Good News (Sept) and 2nd Samuel (Fall).

Gathering Hour - Sept 28: Change of time and place to 7:30pm at Easytalk.

Discovering Hope - Oct 2-3: Register now for our new member class!

Men's Meetup - Oct 1 12-1:15pm: Lunch at Yamas downtown.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Pizza and Playground - Sept 25 5:30-7pm: All kids 3yrs-5th grade. Bring your wheels!

Mystery Dinner - Oct 16 6:15-8pm: HS serving MS. Register now!

Kids Praise - 2nd & 4th Sundays 4:30-5:30pm: Resumes for 3rd-5th Grade Sept 13.

Kids Connection - *Sept Verses* - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Matthew 5

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF SEPT 15, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$948,117	\$977,380	-\$29,263	-2.99%
Expense	\$1,072,119	\$1,107,959	-\$35,840	-3.23%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$124,002	-\$130,579		

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,558,309

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE UPDATE

Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received Beyond Commitments	Total Funds Received to Date
\$9.4 million	\$5,243,302	\$765,680	\$4,908,524