

**Prelude**  
**In the Chapel**  
*(F. C. Haueisen)*

Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

Prelude

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Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

Welcome, Prayer; Next: Call to Worship

**Leader: In the midst of the storms of life,  
God is there.**

**People: Whom shall we fear?**

**Leader: In the darkness and terror, God is  
with us.**

**People: What shall we fear?**

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Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Rise up, people of God, for we are loved.

All: Thanks be to the God who cares deeply, who is always moving in our midst.

Responsive Call to Worship

Next: Hymn of Praise

  
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Hymn of Praise

Immortal, Invisible,  
God Only Wise  
#62

Verse 1

Immortal, invisible,  
God only wise,  
in light inaccessible  
hid from our eyes,

Verse 1

most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious,  
thy great name we praise.

Verse 2

Unresting, unhasting,  
and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting,  
thou rulest in might;

Verse 2

thy justice like mountains  
high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains  
of goodness and love.

Verse 3

To all life thou givest,  
to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest,  
the true life of all;

Verse 3

we blossom and flourish  
as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish-  
but naught changeth thee.

Verse 4

Great Father of glory,  
pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee,  
all veiling their sight;

Verse 4

#

all praise we would render;  
O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor  
of light hideth thee.

Next: Life Together

  
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## Spring Fling, All-Church Picnic

TODAY after church

Come with a picnic lunch  
(and a beach chair if you want!)



## Wednesdays at Westminster

Back this Wednesday, 6-7:30pm  
(continuing our Esther series)



## Exploring Church Membership

Lunch  
April 28 11:30am



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 

May 2nd  
National Day of Prayer  
at  
CLU

 Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

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*Children's Moment*

  
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 Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

Passing the Peace, Next: First Scripture

**Ephesians 1:15-23 - NIV**

*For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

First Scripture

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

First Scripture



*That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*

First Scripture



*And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

*This is the Word of the Lord,  
Thanks be to God*



## First Scripture

  
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## Pastoral Prayer, next 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.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Lord's Prayer

**For thine is the kingdom  
and the power  
and the glory, forever.  
AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

  
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Pastoral Prayer, next Anthem

Prayer Response, Anthem

## He is Lord of All

*(J.P. Williams / B. Harlan)*

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Presbyterian Church

  
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### Five Names to Know

- **Esther** – Jewish orphan, raised by cousin Mordecai, becomes queen of Persia
- **Mordecai** – Esther's cousin & guardian
- **Haman** – Antagonist, official in king's court, plots a mass genocide of Jews in Persia

  
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## Five Names to Know

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- **Mordecai** – Esther's cousin & guardian
- **Haman** – Antagonist, official in king's court, plots a mass genocide of Jews in Persia
- **King Xerxes** – King of Persia from 486-465 BCE, Ahasuerus, King Headache, Cyrus the Great 2x Great Grandson
- **Vashti** – Queen removed by Xerxes after defying him

**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...



*For this cause I have now summoned you together, that I may impart to you my purpose. It is my intent to bridge the Hellespont and lead my army through Europe to Hellas [Greece], that I may punish the Athenians for what they have done to the Persians and to my father. You saw that Darius my father was minded to make an expedition against these men. But he is dead, and it was not granted him to punish them; and I, on his and all the Persians' behalf, will never rest till I have taken and burnt Athens....*

HERODOTUS. 484 - 430/20 BCE

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FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas—to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at.

ESTHER 1:10-11

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

ESTHER 1:12

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

Since it was customary for the king to consult experts in matters of law and justice, he spoke with the wise men who understood the times and were closest to the king—Karshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memukan, the seven nobles of Persia and Media who had special access to the king and were highest in the kingdom.

ESTHER 1:13-14

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

"According to law, what must be done to Queen Vashti?" he asked. "She has not obeyed the command of King Xerxes that the eunuchs have taken to her."

ESTHER 1:15

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

Then Memukan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, "Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces of King Xerxes.

ESTHER 1:16

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, 'King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.'

ESTHER 1:17

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen's conduct will respond to all the king's nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

ESTHER 1:18

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

"Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she.

ESTHER 1:19

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

Then when the king's edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest."

ESTHER 1:20

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

The king and his nobles were pleased with this advice, so the king did as Memukan proposed. He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom, to each province in its own script and to each people in their own language, proclaiming that every man should be ruler over his own household, using his native tongue.

*This is the Word of the Lord,*  
Thanks be to God.

ESTHER 1:21-22

  
**ESTHER**  
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## TAKEAWAY:

**GOD IS ALWAYS MOVING, EVEN  
IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS.**

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

## The Folly of a King

Xerxes, Ahasuerus, *King Headache*  
486-465 BCE

- **Request for Legal Advice** – Esther 1:13-15
- Advice: **“Flex your power!”** – Esther 1:16-18
- **Reward or Punishment?** – Esther 1:19
- Announcement: **“MEN, STAND STRONG!”** – Esther 1:20-22

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...



...when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet...

EPHESIANS 1:18-23

  
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**TAKEAWAY:**

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IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS.**

  
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Next Sermon Response

  
**ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

Offertory

**Waymaker**  
*(Sinach)*

---

1

**You are here,  
moving in our midst,  
I worship You,  
I worship You**

---

2

**You are here,  
working in this place,  
I worship You,  
I worship You**

3

You are here,  
touching every heart,  
I worship You,  
I worship You

4

You are here,  
healing every heart,  
I worship You,  
I worship You

5

You are  
Waymaker,  
Miracle worker,  
Promise keeper,  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are

6

**You are  
Waymaker,  
Miracle worker,  
Promise keeper,  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are**

7



**You are here,  
turning lives around,  
I worship You,  
I worship You**

8

**You are here,  
mending every heart  
I worship You,  
I worship You**



9

**You are  
Waymaker,  
Miracle worker,  
Promise keeper,  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are**



10

**You are  
Waymaker,  
Miracle worker,  
Promise keeper,  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are**

11

**That is who You are,  
That is who You are,  
That is who You are,  
That is who You are,**

12

That is who You are.  
That is who You are.  
That is who You are.  
That is who You are.

13

Even when I don't see it,  
You're working,  
even when I don't feel it,  
You're working

14

You never stop,  
You never stop working.  
You never stop,  
You never stop working.

15

Even when I don't see it,  
You're working.  
even when I don't feel it,  
You're working.



16

You never stop,  
You never stop working.  
You never stop.  
You never stop.

17

You are  
Waymaker,  
Miracle worker,  
Promise keeper,  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are



**You are  
Waymaker,  
Miracle worker,  
Promise keeper,  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are**

18

#

**You are  
Waymaker,  
Miracle worker,  
Promise keeper,  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are**

19

  
**ESTHER**  
*FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...*



Next Opportunities



## Volunteer Opportunities

just a few hours a month

- Sunday School
- AV Assistance
- Thursday Gardening Group

## Help for Church Picnic Tear Down Crew today

## Give Financially

Our operating budget comes from:

- checks mailed to the church office
- Church Center Giving
- legacy gifts.
- collection during services on Sundays.

More information in Pew Racks

Baskets available near exits.



Call for Offering, Next: Offertory

Offertory

**Offertory**  
**I Want to Know You**  
*(M. Farren / R. Thompson / J. Robinson)*


**Ways to Give:**  
Offering plate  
Online via Church Center or Venmo  
Through the office, contact Terry or Heidi

  
Venmo: wpcwestlake

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Doxology

**Doxology**

  **ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

Doxology

**Praise God from whom  
all blessings flow,  
praise God, all creatures  
here below,**

  **ESTHER**  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

Doxology, Next Prayer of Dedication

Praise God above,  
ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son,  
and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

Prayer of Dedication, next: Hymn of Commitment

ESTHER  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

Hymn of Commitment

God's Holy Ways  
are Just and True  
#328

God's holy ways are just and true,  
his promises are ever new,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Let every heart with praises sing  
and make this house with voices ring:

O praise him, O praise him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Bring back to mind his  
grace and love,  
our needs provided from above;  
O praise him, alleluia!  
He kept his word and Jesus came  
to make a people for his name;

**O praise him, O praise him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Tell once again his deeds of old,  
the story of our mighty God,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
For all his glorious works and ways  
we shall rejoice through  
endless days;**

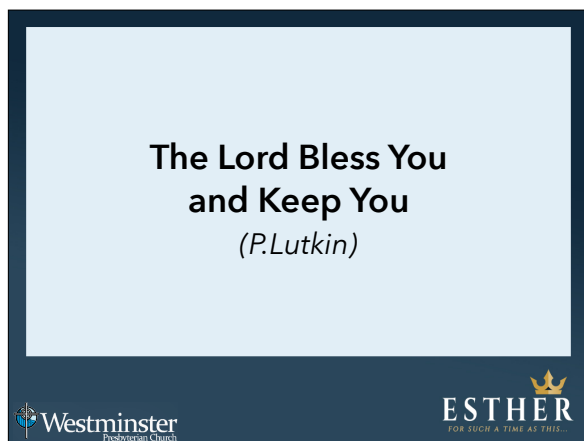
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**O praise him, O praise him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Benediction | Next: Benediction Song



The Lord Bless You  
and Keep You  
*(P.Lutkin)*



Postlude

*Postlude*  
Jesus Led Me All the Way  
*(J. W. Peterson)*

