

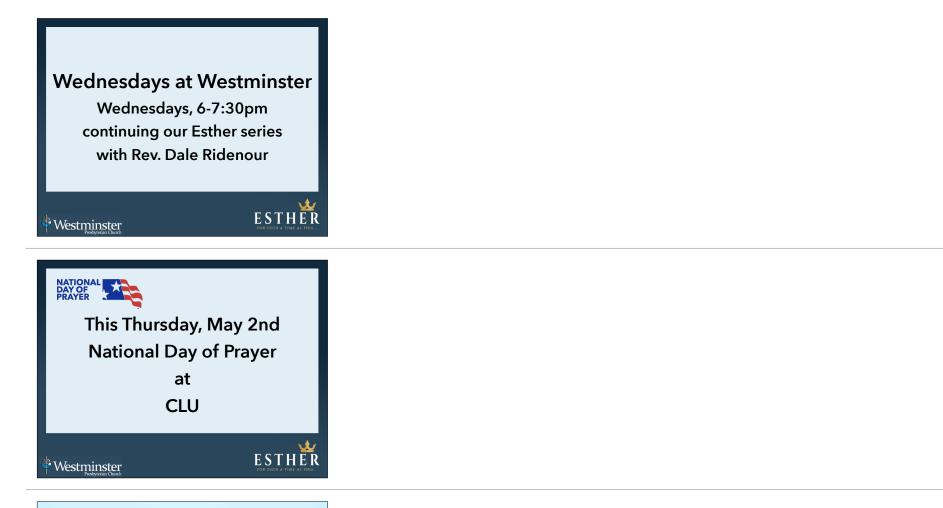


Next: Life Together

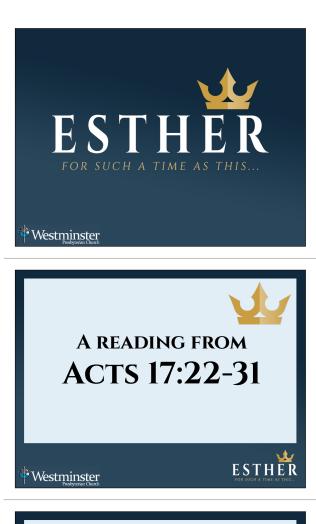


Westminster

ESTHER FOR SUCH A TIME ACTIVITY







Passing the Peace, Next: First Scripture

First Scripture

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship–and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

Acts 17:22-23

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"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 26 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Acts 17:24-26

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God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone–an image made by human design and skill.

Acts 17:27-29

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In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

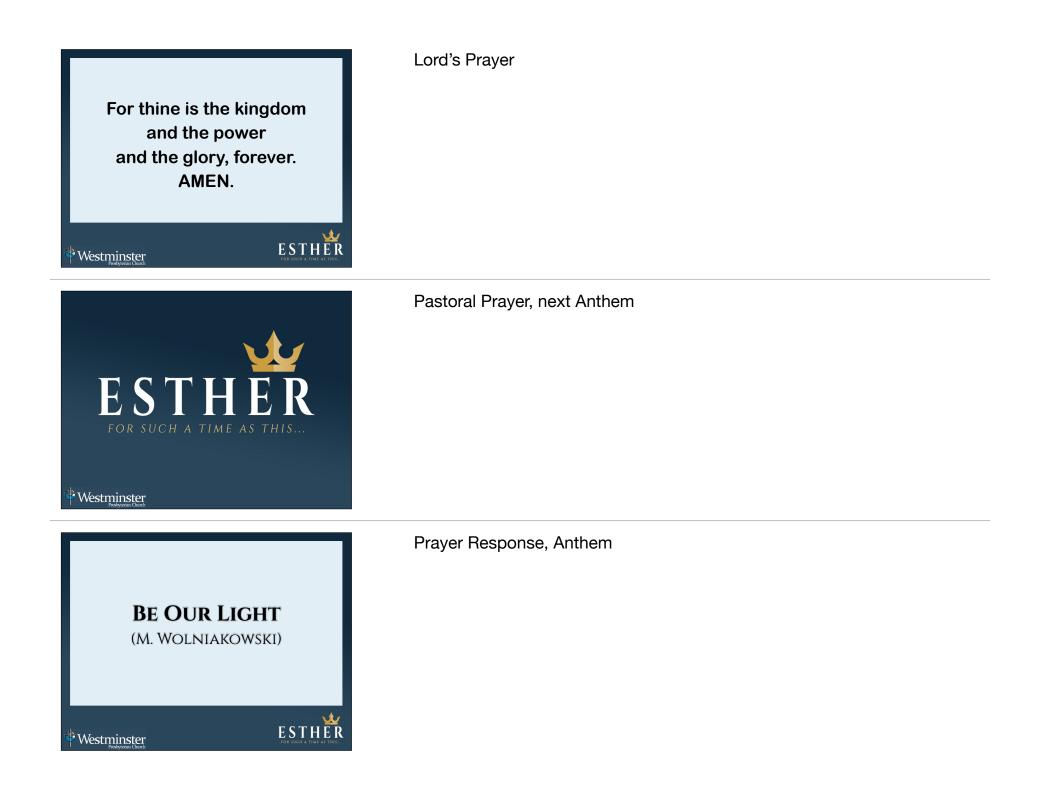
This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God.

Acts 17:30-31

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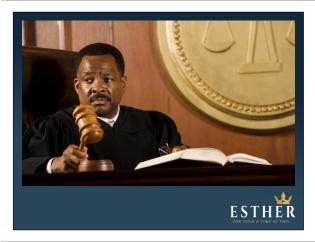


ESTHER FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS	Pastoral Prayer, next Lard's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	Lord's Prayer
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	Lord's Prayer





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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. 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.

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Next Sermon

Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew.

Esther 3:3-4, NIV



When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 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.

ESTHER 3:5-6, NIV

ESTHEF FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.

In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

Esther 3:7, NIV

Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them.

Esther 3:8, NIV



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

Esther 3:9, NIV

ESTHER FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please."

Esther 3:10-11, NIV

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Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring.



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.

Esther 3:13, NIV

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A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.

Esther 3:14, NIV

The couriers went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

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

Esther 3:15, NIV







"People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god.

So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship..."

Acts 17:22-31, NIV





TAKEAWAY:

WE CAN STAND FIRM IN THE FACE OF UNCERTAINTY BY REMEMBERING OUR IDENTITY AND WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.





TAKEAWAY:

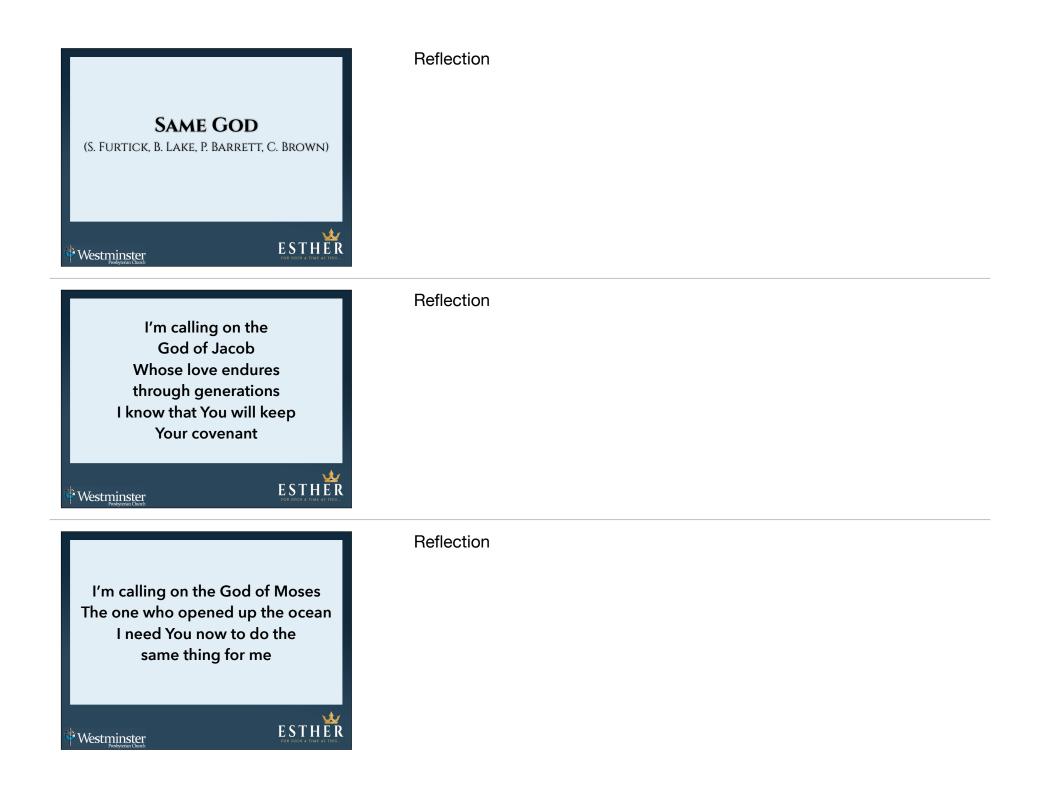
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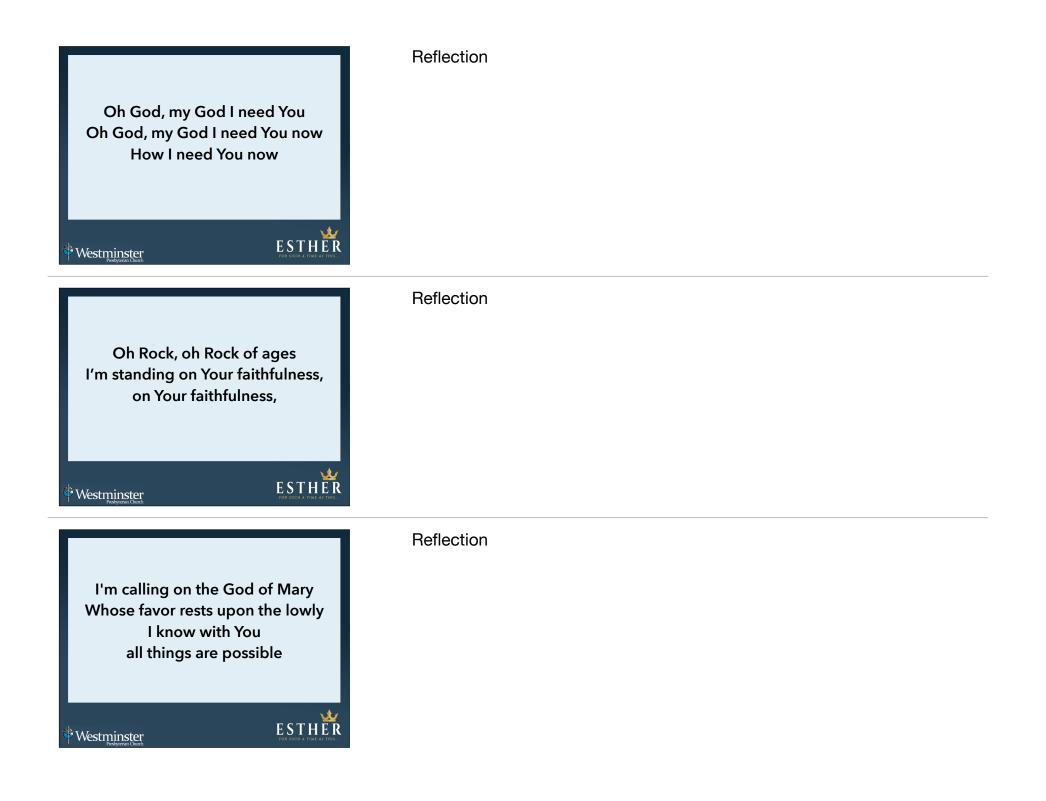
> ESTHER FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

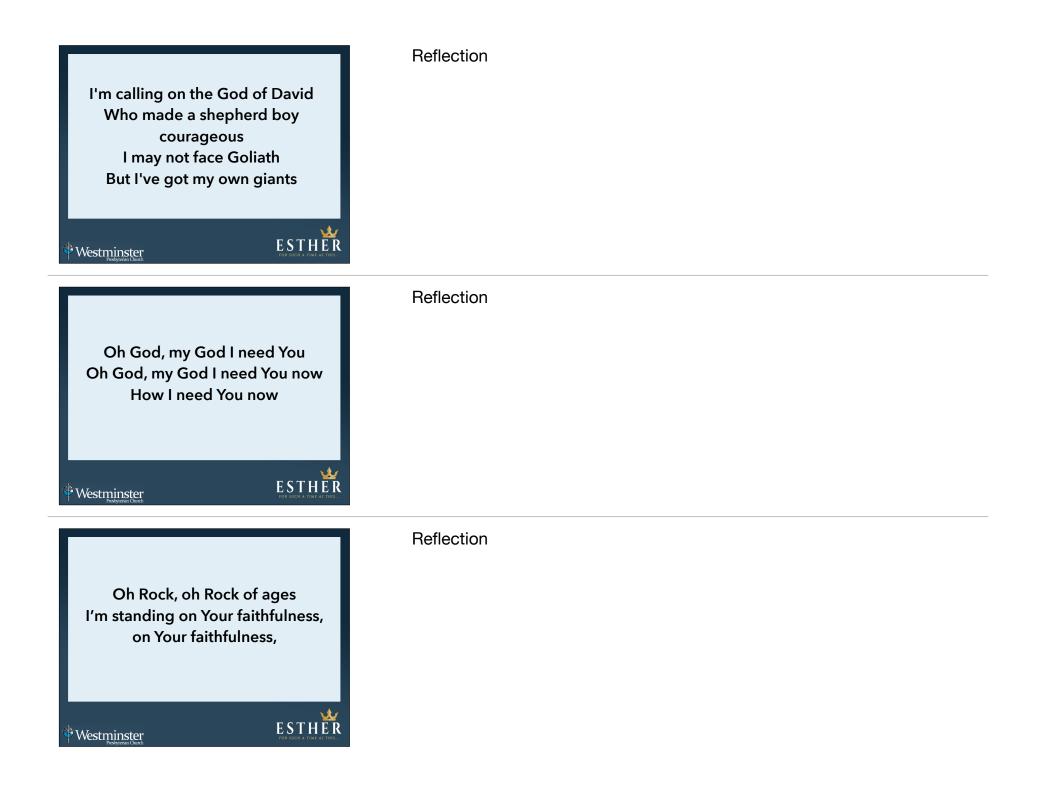


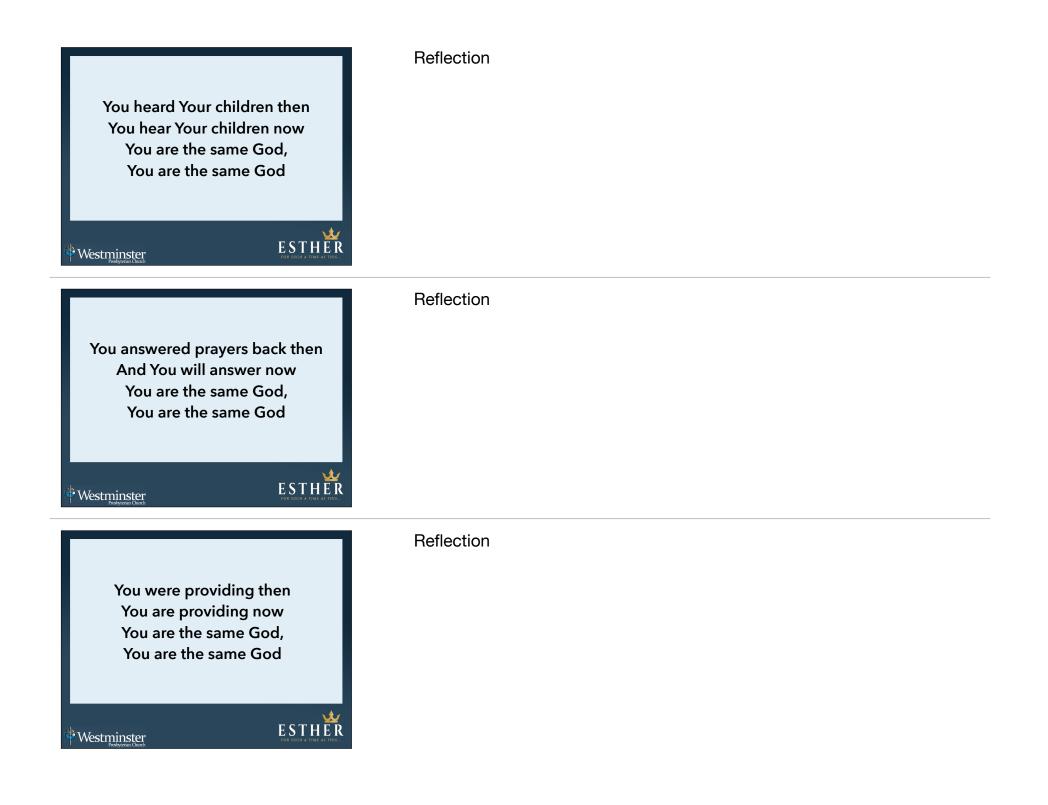
Next Sermon Response

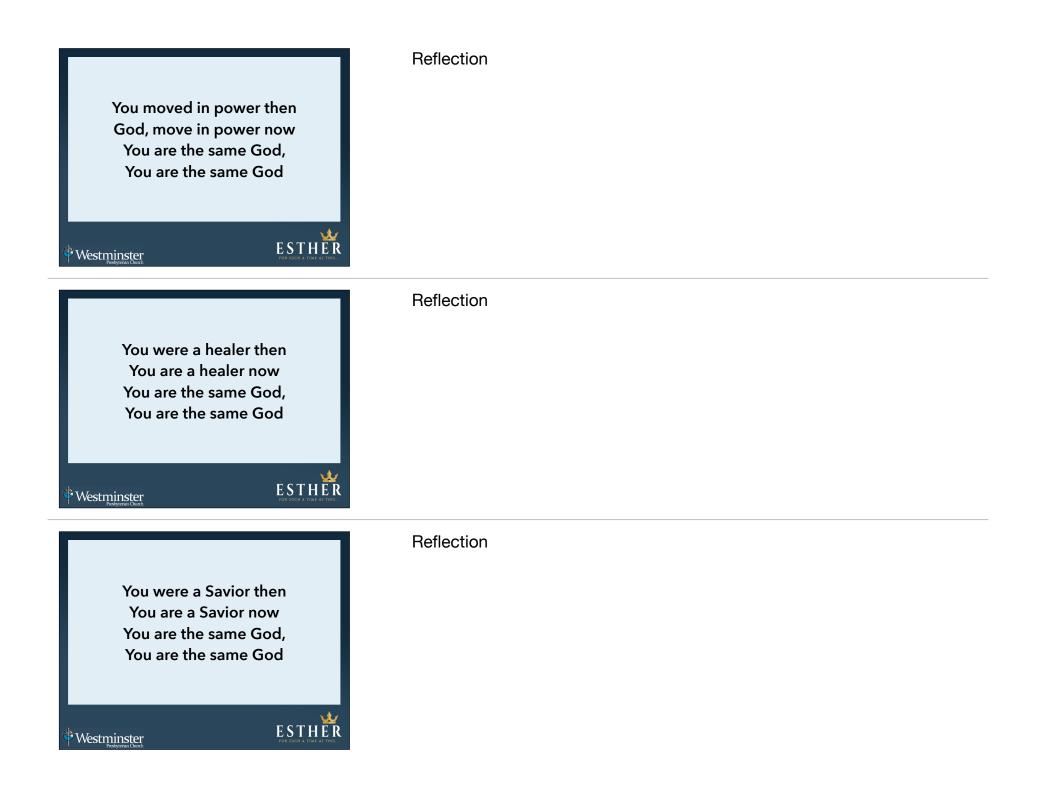
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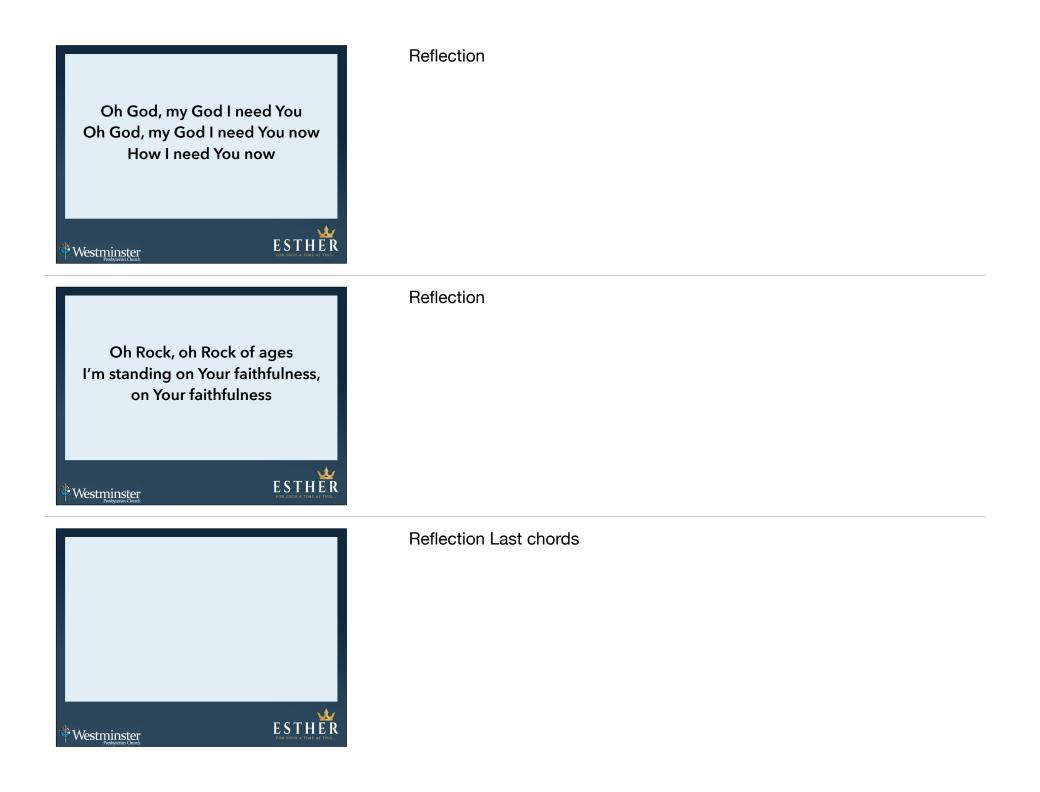














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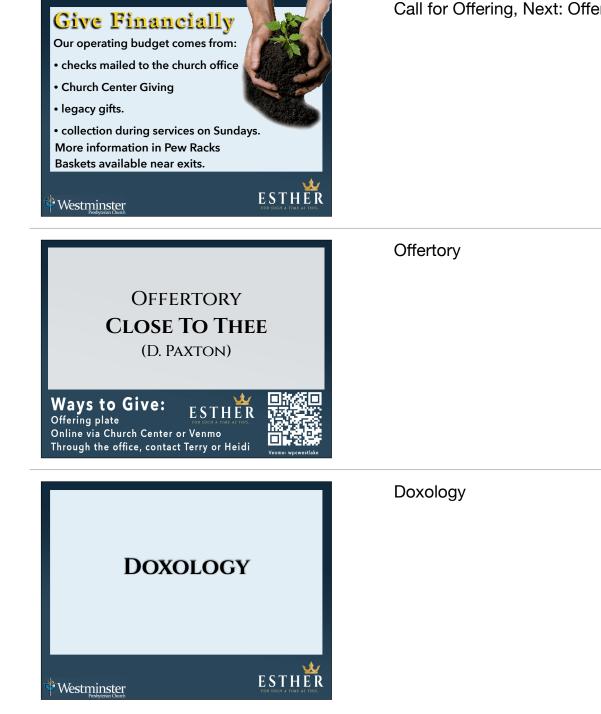




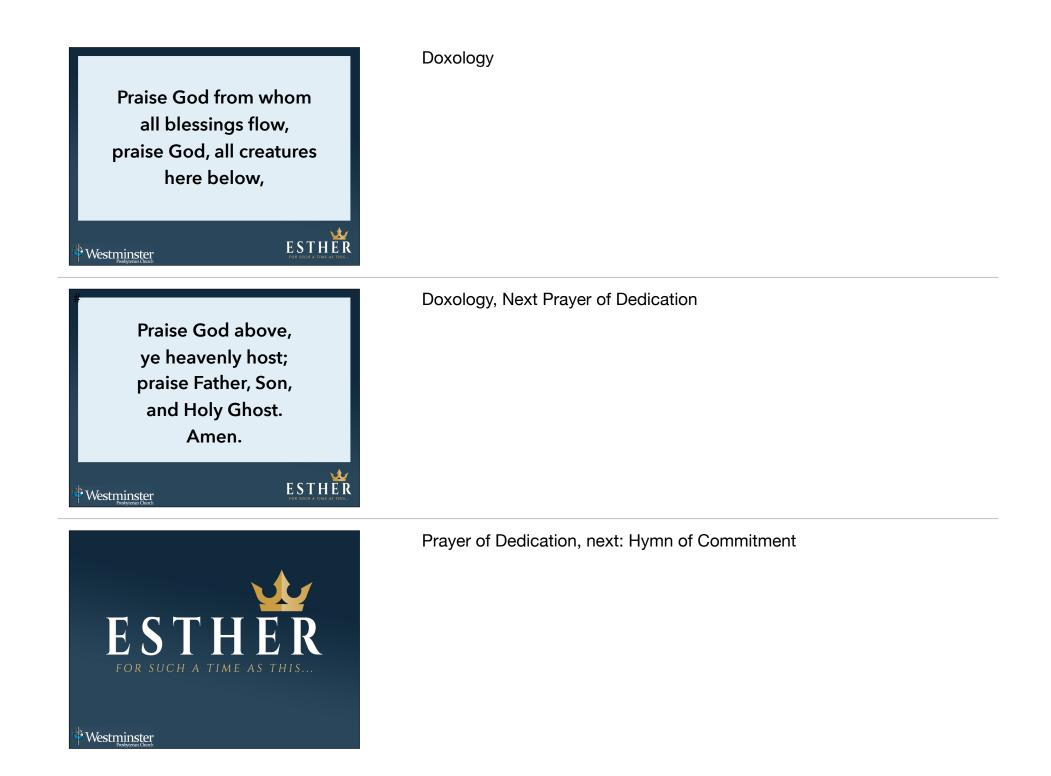
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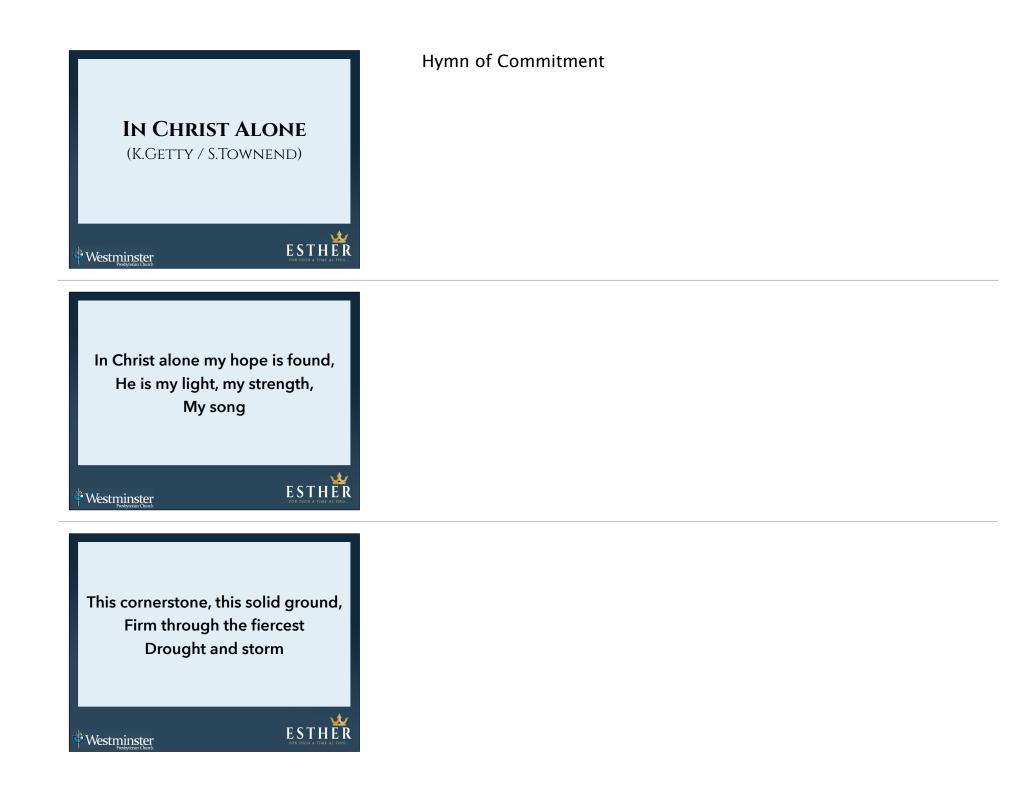
Next: Offertory

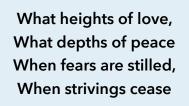
Next Opportunities



Call for Offering, Next: Offertory







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My comforter, my all in all Here in the love of Christ I stand

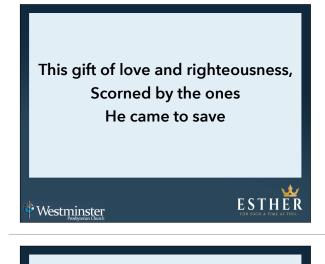
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In Christ alone, who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe

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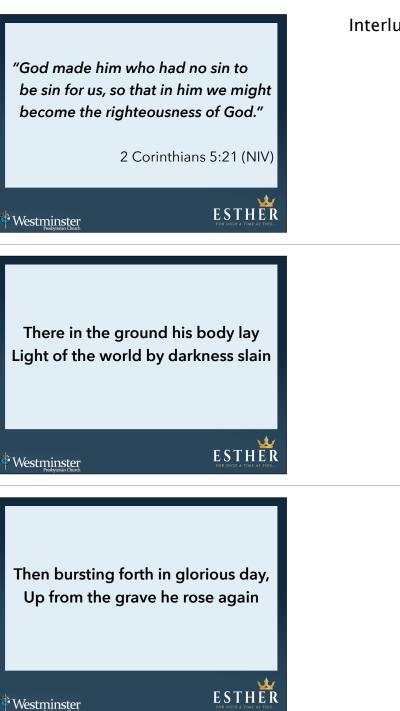
'Til on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied,

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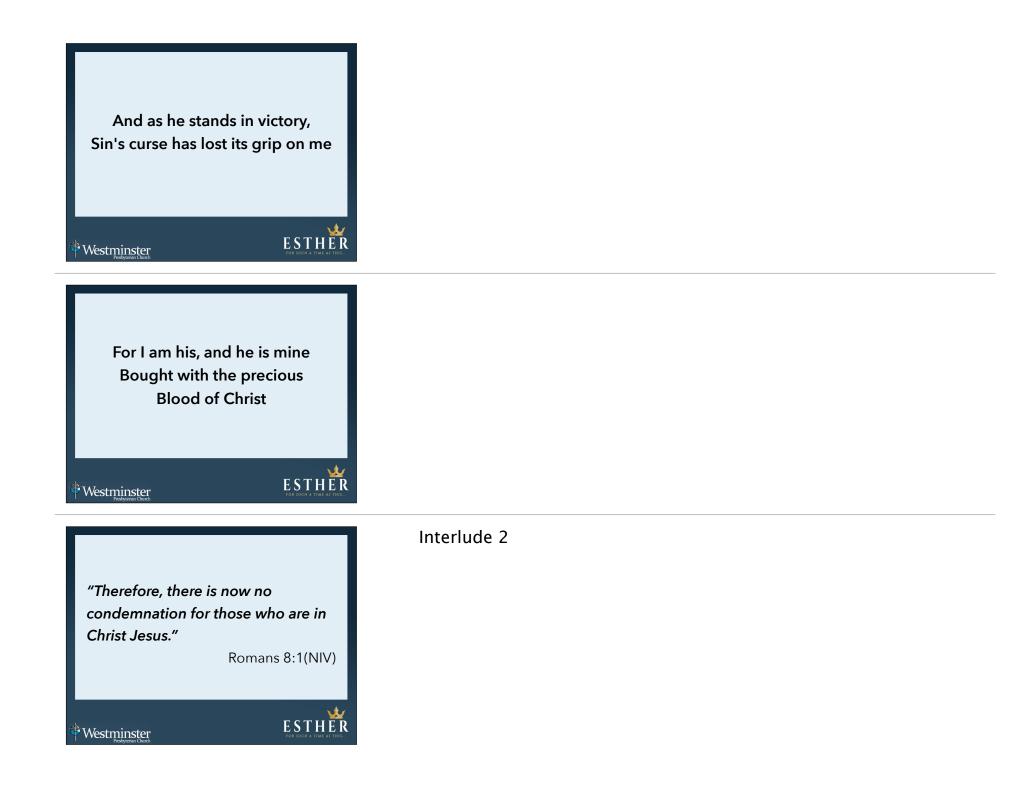
For every sin on him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live

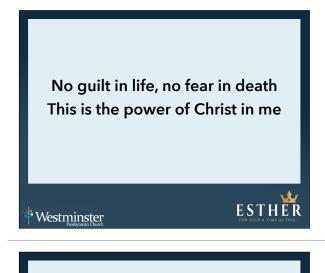
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Interlude





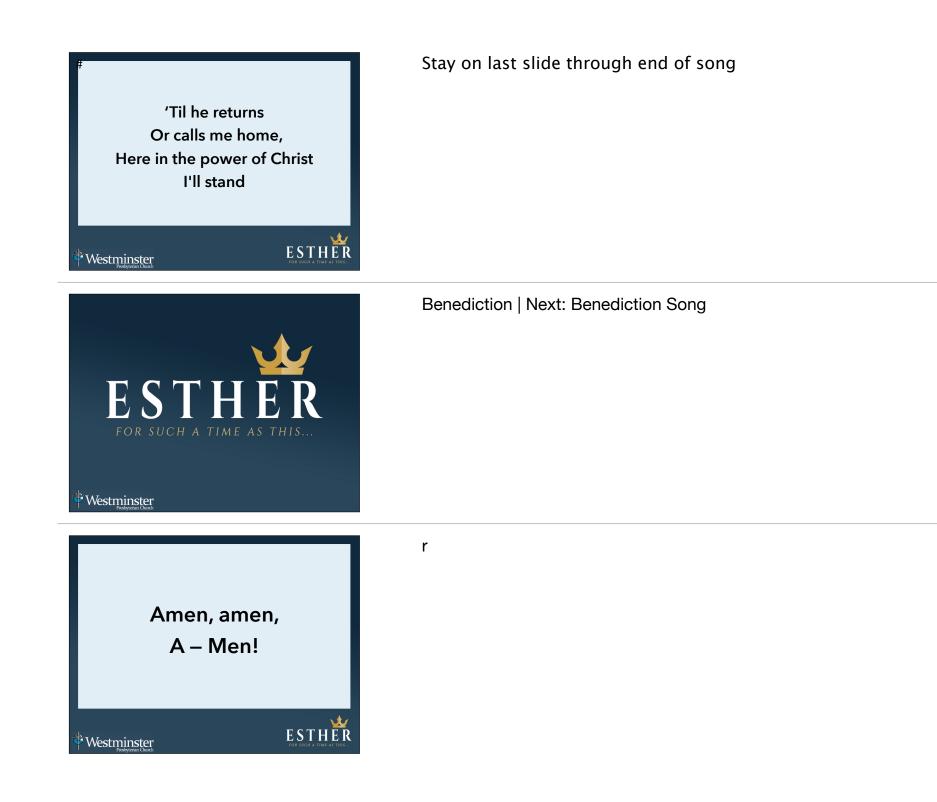
From life's first cry, to final breath Jesus commands my destiny

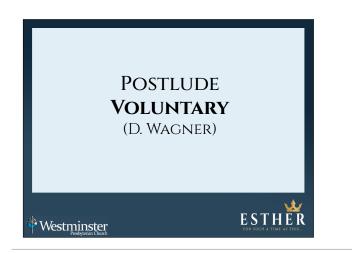
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No power of hell, No scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from his hand

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Postlude