

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

September 7, 2025

*"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart
of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes,
and you will be careful to observe My ordinances." – Ezekiel 36:26-27*



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“✠” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Jeremiah 31:31-34

Leader: *Behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel*

People: **And with the house of Judah,**

Leader: *Not like the covenant (referring to the Old Covenant Law that Israel received at Sinai) which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand*

People: **To bring them out of the land of Egypt,**

Leader: *My covenant which they broke,*

People: **Although I was a husband to them, declares the Lord.**

Leader: *But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel*

People: **After those days, declares the Lord,**

Leader: *I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it (which is by the work of God's Spirit);*

People: **And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

Leader: *They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know the Lord,*

People: **For they will all know Me,**

Leader: *From the least of them to the greatest of them,*

People: **Declares the Lord,**

Leader: *For I will forgive their iniquity (this is the Gospel),*

People: **And their sin I will remember no more.**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Ezekiel 11:19-20

***Hymn #332** – *“Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

Scripture Reading – Romans 7:22-8:28

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – Nicene Creed (pg#846 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

*Doxology #731 (red hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Sung Psalm #59B – “I Wait For You”

Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer (sins)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Heidelberg Catechism, 2,3,8,103.

Leader: Q#2 – What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: Three things: first, how great my sin
and misery are;

Rom 3:9-10

1John 1:10

Leader: Second, how I am set free from all my sins
and misery;

John 17:3

Acts 4:12; 10:43

People: Third, how I am to thank God
for such deliverance.

Matt 5:16; Rom 6:13; Eph 5:8-10

2Tim 2:15; 1Pet 2:9-10

Leader: Q#3 – How do you come to know your misery?

People: The law of God tells me.

Rom 3:20; 7:7-25

Leader: Q#8 – But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable
to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

People: Yes, unless we are born again
by the Spirit of God.

Gen 6:5; 8:21; Job 14:4; Is 53:6

John 3:3-5

Leader: 103 – What is God’s will for you in the fourth commandment
(which is Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy)?

Ex 20:8

People: that the gospel ministry and education
for it be maintained,

Deut 6:4-9, 20-25; 1Cor 9:13-14

2Tim 2:2; 3:13-17; Titus 1:5

Leader: And that, especially on the festive day of rest,

People: I diligently attend the assembly
of God’s people

Deut 12:5-12; Ps 40:9-10; 68:26

Acts 2:42-47; Heb 10:23-25

Leader: To learn what God’s Word teaches,

Rom 10:14-17; 1Cor 14:31-32; 1Tim 4:13

People: To participate in the sacraments,

1Cor 11:23-25

Leader: To pray to God publicly,

Col 3:16; 1Tim 2:1

People: And to bring Christian offerings for the poor.

Ps 50:14; 1Cor 16:2; 2Cor 8 & 9

Leader: Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways,

People: Let the Lord work in me through his Spirit,

Leader: And so begin in this life

People: The eternal Sabbath.

Is 66:23; Heb 4:9-11

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Romans 7:24-8:4

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “Maturity in Law, Gospel & Spirit”

A Topical Mini-Sermon Series on Maturity

Ministry of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation & Warning

Prayer

Scripture – Hebrews 10:14-18

Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #334** – “*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*”

***Benediction** – Romans 8:31-39

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- Studies returning on:
 - Sunday School** for all ages (9:00 AM) starts on September on 7th.
 - Tuesday Study** (10:30 AM – noon) starts on September 9th.
 - Wednesday Study** (6:30 – 8:00 PM) starts on September 10th.
 - We will be studying the Book of Hebrews.
 - Gen-Alpha Club** will return on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.
 - Friday YADG** (6:30 PM) still meets on 1st & 3rd Friday.
 - Saturday Morning Prayer Group** at the Gabelmann’s. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)
- On Saturday, **September 13th**, from **noon** to 5:00 PM, there will be a **church picnic** at the Winter’s house. (1448 Burt Hill Rd; Tolland, MA 01034).
- The next **Elder & Deacon Meeting** will be at the Aldrich’s on Saturday, **Sept. 27th** at **8:30 AM**.
- On Saturday, **October 18th**, starting at 11:30 AM, will be an **Oktoberfest** at the Aldrich’s! With choice of select root-beers (we are Calvinists after all). There will be a sign up for whatever German food you would like to bring.
- The *tentative* date for the **Annual Calvinist-Christmas Party** is Friday, **December 5th**, at the Grange.
- The **Annual Meeting** will be after church on **December 14th**.

ONLINE RESOURCES

TRC’s Webpage:

TRC’s Facebook Page:

TRC’s Youtube Channel:

Pastor Doug’s

Youtube Channels:

TrinityReformedCT.org

facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/

youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT

youtube.com/simplyreformed

youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

Elders:	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrossell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com

Deacons: David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters

Sunday School: Verna Aldrich, Vika Winters

Music Coordinator: Cindy Rines

Clerk: Sheryl Gabelmann

Treasurer: Cindy Rines

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – *Phone:* (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – *Email:* trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

Romans 7:24-8:4

“Maturity in Law, Gospel & Spirit”

A Topical Mini-Sermon Series on Maturity

September 7, 2025

Introduction

- 1) We have been doing a mini-topical series on maturity this summer and this is the last in the series.
- 2) Arguably, the two most important books about maturity are Romans and Hebrews.
 - a) Not only do they teach maturity, but they take maturity to understand.
 - b) Arguably, they are the two most theologically deep and lengthy books in the New Testament.
 - c) Romans is the most detailed description of the Gospel in the Bible.
 - d) Hebrews is the most detailed Christology (i.e. the doctrines of/about Christ) in the Bible.
 - e) Though some would argue for the Gospel of John.
- 3) If you forced me to choose one chapter of the Bible to study for the rest of my life on what it is to be mature, it would be Romans 8.
- 4) What makes it about maturity is that Paul, and the Bible, weave together three things:
The **Law**, the **Gospel** and **Life in the Spirit**.¹
 - a) These three things are fundamentally different but fundamentally connected.
 - b) You can't have one without the other.
 - c) And all are critical for the Christian life.
- 5) Let's unpack that today but first an overview of Romans.

¹ Deut 30:6,11-14; Ps 51:10-12; 119:1-11; Is 59:20-21; Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 11:19-20; 36:26-27; Matt 5:17-20; John 14:16ff; 16:8-15; Acts 2:38; Rom 1:1-4; 3:21-22,31; 6:14; 7:4-6; 8:1-17; 10:4-10; 13:8-10; 2Cor 3:3-9,14-18; Gal 2:19-21; 3:1ff; 5:13-25; Eph 2:8-10; Phil 2:12-13; Titus 2:11-14; Heb 8:10; 10:15-16.

Overview of Romans

- 1) Arguably, Romans is Paul's *magnum opus* ("great work") with many theologians throughout history considering it the most important book in the Bible (e.g. Augustine, Luther, Calvin)
- 2) It was written as a means of introduction to the church in Rome.
 - a) A rare church Paul did not found or as of yet visited.
 - b) Rome is the most important city of the Roman Empire.
 - c) As an introduction, Paul explains the Gospel in great detail, since it is the "power of God." Rom 1:16; 1Cor 1:18,24; 2Cor 4:6-7
1Thes 1:5; 2Tim 1:8-9; 1Pet 1:23-25
- 3) My favorite short, definition of the Gospel is Romans 1:1b-5a,16-17

"... the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace ... For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith.'"
- 4) Romans, chapters 1-8, is the Gospel in detail.
 - a) Romans 1:18-3:20 Is about the problem: Sin.
 - b) Romans 3:21-5:21 Is about the solution: Justified, in Christ, by faith alone.
 - c) Romans 6:1-8:39 Is about the outcome: Sanctified life in the Spirit.
- 5) The last chapter of the Gospel section, Romans 8 is the pinnacle of the Christian life.
 - a) The very last part, Romans 8:31-39, might be the most encouraging paragraph ever written, about our full assurance in Christ.
 - b) Romans 8:28-30 is about the "Golden Chain of Redemption": God's foreknowing, predestining, calling, justifying and glorying the believer.
- 6) Romans 7:24-8:27 is one of the most profound sections in Scripture.
 - a) Paul carefully weaves three pillars of Christian maturity: Law, Gospel & Life in the Spirit. With the Spirit being the focus at the end.
 - b) These are major themes in Romans.

Quick Definitions

- 1) All these three are deep terms!
For example:
 - a) Our great creeds refuse to give a simple definition of the Gospel, while being willing to define almost everything else!
 - b) The defining of all that the Bible teaches about them requires much maturity. (e.g. Civil, Ceremonial, Moral Law?)
- 2) But let us give a simple definition to begin with:
 - a) The "**Law**" is: **Do!** (or **Don't Do!**) – God's rules we are to obey.
 - b) The "**Gospel**" is: **Done** – the proclamation of the finished saving work of Christ which we receive by faith alone.
 - c) The "**Life in the Spirit**" is: **Doing** – Living out that Gospel Life of the Law of Christ.

- 3) The “Life in the Spirit” is somewhat problematic for us Reformed types.
 - a) We like everything biblically objective and systematic – like the Law and the Gospel.
 - b) Life in the Spirit seems much more subjective and unsystematic.
 - c) And we get nervous looking at the Pentecostals and Charismatics who over focus on it and define the life in the Spirit in very individualistic, emotional, and with a desire for dramatic supernatural things to happen.
 - d) The Bible focuses on Life in the Spirit and so should we.
 - i) Life in the Spirit dominates the discussion at Paul’s conclusion about the Gospel in chapter 8.
 - ii) So, we Reformed need to repent about not focusing in on the Spirit.
 - iii) However, the Pentecostals need to repent about not understanding that Life in the Spirit is fundamentally tied to the Law and Gospel, and not dramatic emotional individualism.

Romans 7:24 – The Law & Sin

- 1) In Romans 7 Paul returns to discussing the Law.
- 2) He has already taught that everyone is already condemned by the Law. Rom 3:1-20,23
 - a) To quote Paul, quoting David, “*There is none righteous, not even one*” - Romans 3:10b Ps 14:1; 53:1
 - b) Unbelievers are condemned because aspects of the law are written in everyone’s hearts because they are in the image of God and they are rebelling. Rom 2:9,14-15
Gen 1:26-27; John 3:18-19
Rom 1:18-20; 3:19-20; Eph 2:1-3
 - i) Example: A thief who complains when someone steals from him.
 - ii) Because “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” – Romans 3:23
- 3) Romans 1:19-3:20,23 is about teaching sin – laying the foundation for the Gospel, Romans 7 is about sanctification of the believer – after the Gospel has been received.
 - a) The Law is to continually press in on the believer.
 - b) Not just as a moral guide but to expose more and more sin. Gal 3:19,24
 - c) Remember sanctification is that walk in holiness of daily dying to sin (i.e. mortification) and living for Christ (i.e. vivification). Rom 6:6-11; 8:12-13
 - d) The Law shows us sins that we didn’t even know are sins.
 - e) Paul gives the example of: Coveting. Rom 7:7ff
 - i) The world doesn’t think coveting is a sin, many think it is a virtue.
 - ii) Yet, it makes the Top Ten according to God.
 - iii) It is the sin that is at the root of all the other sins listed in the Ten Commandments (Covet idols – to have your own god; you covet violence, another woman, money, etc.)
- 4) What is coveting?
 - a) This is where the Westminster Larger and Shorter catechisms come in so handy.
 - b) Coveting is that sin of having “*discontentment with our own estate*, (1Kgs 21:4; Esth 5:13; 1Cor 10:10) *envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor*, (Gal 5:26; James 3:14,16) *and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his*. (Rom 7:7-8; 13:9; Deut 5:21)” – WSC 81

- c) Remember the “negative” commandments also require a positive fulfillment, so to avoid the sin of coveting you also have to have “*full contentment with our own condition*, (Heb 13:5; 1Tim 6:6) *with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his*. (Job 31:29; Rom 12:15; 1Tim 1:5; 1Cor 13:4-7) – WSC 80
- 5) Are you keeping this commandment perfectly as demanded by the Law? Matt 5:48; 1Pet 1:15-16
- a) If you say: “*No, but I am saved in Jesus!*”
- i) You are missing a very important step.
- ii) Which is key to the mature Christian life as found in Romans 7:25-8:1.
- b) Look at Romans 7:24 – “*Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*”
- i) Saving faith is not just mere intellect, it also includes assent/agreement and daily willful trust, John 1:12; 3:16; Rom 10:9-10
Eph 2:4-9; Gal 2:20; Heb 11:1,6
- ii) To deeply feel your sinful nature, and all your sins, is a great work of the Holy Spirit Ps 51:3-4; John 16:8
Rom 7:18-24; 2Cor 7:10
- iii) To hate sin, and particular sins, is a great blessing. Ps 97:10; 119:104,128
- The sins you hate are the easiest to avoid.
 - It’s the sins we “wink at”, pretend not to see, that we know are wrong, but secretly enjoy, and close our eyes to, are the hard ones to mortify.
- 6) Romans 7:25 is about the big picture.
- a) It is not just mere intellectual acknowledgment of being sinful but to realize one is in a wretched/miserable state before a holy God.
- b) That one is enslaved to desires that bring only death before a holy God and that in yourself there is no hope - i.e. You have been caught red-handed as a drug addict, you are desperate.
- c) Thus, the only hope is outside of you: “*Who will set me free from the body of this death?*”
- i) Please note, this is not an unbeliever, or new Christian speaking.
- ii) This is the very mature Apostle Paul.
- iii) This is a sign of maturity.
- 7) Acknowledging one’s sinful state is the first step to become a Christian and a continuous state of growing in this knowledge to become a mature Christian,

Romans 7:25-8:1 – The Gospel

- 1) The more of the heart (i.e. the whole inner man – mind, will, soul, spirit, emotions, etc.) understands the terribleness of sin the more one will turn to, and have faith/trust in, one’s only Savior. Ps 51:3-4,17; Is 6:5-7
Ezek 36:26-27
Luke 18:13-14
Rom 7:24-25; Gal 2:20
- 2) This will produce worship, thanksgiving, and doxology. Deut 6:4-5; Ps 9:1; 51:10,15
Thus, obeying the 1st Commandment, to love God. Matt 22:37-38; Eph 5:18-20
- a) Thus Romans 7:25a – “*Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*”
- b) Praise God the Father for such Good News “*through Jesus Christ our Lord!*” Worship is only possible and acceptable in Christ. John 4:23-24; 14:6
Heb 10:19-22; 13:15

- 3) The problem of sin still remains, though our condition has radically changed.
- a) Romans 7:25 – *“So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.”*
 - b) The mind here is the renewed mind of a regenerate man.
 - i) By the Spirit the believer now truly delights in God’s Law. Rom 7:22; 8:4; Gal 5:22-23
 - ii) That by the Spirit-born new birth, the affections are turned towards God. Ezek 36:26-27; John 3:5-8
Rom 5:5; 8:5-6; Gal 5:22-23
 - c) Yes, the battle with sin continues in this life, thus *“but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.”* Rom 7:18-25; Gal 5:16-17
Eph 6:11-12; Col 3:5-10
 - i) Flesh means the remnants of the indwelling of sin in the believer. That “old man” of sin. Rom 7:18,23-24; 8:5-8,12-13
Gal 5:16-17,24; Eph 4:22; Col 3:9
 - ii) This wrestling with sin will happen throughout all our days on this earth, because it is how we grow in holiness, encourages us to be humble, and prepares us for heaven. Rom 7:22-25; 2Cor 12:7-10
Gal 5:16-17; Phil 3:12-14
Heb 12:1-2,10-11
1Pet 1:6-7; 4:12-13; 5:10
 - iii) Because of the new life given to us, and that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, sin will not be our master. Rom 6:6,11,14; 8:1-2,9-11
Eph 1:13-14; 1John 3:9
Gal 5:16-18,24
- 4) The power comes from the working out of the Gospel. Rom 1:16; Gal 2:20; Eph 1:19-20
- a) Thus: *“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* – Romans 8:1
 - b) We have full forgiveness of all our sins (past, present and future) which will cause in us a great love for God, Christ’s church, and our neighbor. Ps 103:10-12; Is 43:25
Mic 7:18-19; Rom 8:1
Eph 1:7; Col 2:13-14
- 5) The Gospel is not just about “getting saved” at a one-time moment in your life.
- a) Though some people can have a sudden conversion experience and justification is by faith alone. John 3:3-8; Acts 9:1-6
Rom 1:16-17; 1Cor 15:1-2
Eph 2:8-9; Phil 1:6; Col 2:6
 - b) You believe in the Gospel because the Holy Spirit has first regenerated you and given you faith – And the Holy Spirit remains in you making you grow in holiness as you rest in the Gospel and follow the Law in a new and more powerful way. Ezek 36:26-27
John 3:5-8; 6:44
Rom 8:9-11
Eph 2:8-10
Phil 2:12-13

Romans 8:2-4 – Life in the Spirit

- 1) Paul uses an extraordinary line: *“law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”* – Romans 8:2
- a) This “Law of the Spirit” is Christ ruling in us by His Spirit.
 - i) He brings justification (being declare right in God’s site). Rom 3:24; 5:1,9; 8:2
Gal 2:16-17; Titus 3:5-7
 - ii) He brings sanctification (a life long walk of holiness). John 15:4-5; Gal 5:22-23
Eph 2:10; Phil 2:12-13

- b) The Triune God causes the salvation of His people.
- i) The Father decrees salvation, the Son accomplishes salvation, and the Holy Spirit applies this salvation. John 6:37-39; Rom 8:28-30
Eph 1:3-14; Titus 3:4-6
1Cor 6:11; 1Pet 1:2
 - ii) And this process is a life-long thing by God's grace through His Spirit! John 10:27-29; Rom 8:29-30; 1Cor 1:18
Phil 1:6; 2:12-13; Heb 12:1-2
- 2) Yes, we are completely free from the condemnation the Law brings the moment we have true faith alone in Christ, which is solely by the grace of God. Rom 3:23-24; 5:1; 8:1
Gal 2:16; Eph 2:8-9
John 5:24
- a) This justification, however, will always produce sanctification. Eph; 2:8-10; James 2
 - b) And we do the good works of the (Moral) Law in a different way now.
 - c) What is different?
 - i) Fully forgiven and justified.
 - ii) We walk by the Holy Spirit not by the flesh.
- 3) Rom 8:2b-4 – *“Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”*
- 4) The work of Christ, and the Holy Spirit, are inseparably tied together.
- 5) What is to “Walk by the Spirit?”²
- a) It is primarily not something you do, nor is it about obtaining “magical powers.”
 - b) It is what God has done for you, to you, and in you, by Christ.
 - c) You have repentance and faith in Christ?
That is solely by God's Spirit in you – Praise God!
 - d) You have a desire to follow Christ and obey God's Law?
That is solely by God's Spirit in you – Praise God!
 - e) Life in the Spirit is about our hearts being changed, and is continually being changed, as we walk in the liberation of the Gospel striving to obey God's Law. Ezek 36:26-27
Rom 6:17-18; 8:1-14
2Cor 3:17-18; Gal 5:16-25
 - i) But no longer afraid of trying to earn our justification, for we are fully forgiven. Rom 3:21-28; 4:4-8; 5:1-2
Gal 2:16-21; Eph 2:8-9; Heb 10:14-22
 - ii) Nor trying to obey the OT ceremonial or civil laws, for they have been removed. Matt 5:17; Acts 10:9-16; Rom 6:14
Gal 3:23-25; 4:9-11; Col 2:16-17
 - iii) But to daily walk by faith in Christ, which gives hope, and produces in us love for God, His church, our neighbors, and even our enemies. Rom 1:17; Gal 5:6
Eph 2:8-10; Col 1:4-5
1Thes 1:3; 1John 4:7-21
 - iv) And that is where maturity is found.

² Ps 119:9-11; Ezek 36:26-27; John 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:13; Rom 6:4-14; 8:1-14; 1Cor 6:19-20; Gal 5:16-25; Eph 5:1-2,15-18; Col 3:1-17; 1Thes 4:7-8.

- f) Notice that the Law and the Gospel do not go away, the Spirit drives us to both, daily. Matt 5:17-19; John 16:8-11
Rom 3:31; 7:6; 8:3-4; Gal 5:18-24
- i) The Law as a means of guidance, correction, holiness, and constantly forcing us back to cling to the foot of Christ and His cross as our only hope. Is 53:3-6; John 3:14-18
Rom 3:21-26; 5:6-11
1Cor 1:18-24; Gal 6:14
 - ii) While finding our rest in the sweetness of the Gospel, which makes us respond in thanksgiving. And living in hope and thanksgiving is a powerful place to be. Ps 116:12-14; Matt 11:28-30
Rom 5:1-5; 12:1
Col 3:15-17; Heb 12:28
- g) That is what life in the Spirit is.

Conclusion

- 1) You want more of the Spirit?
 - a) Go to Christ's spiritual body on earth: His church.³
 - b) There you will hear the Law, which by the Spirit will convict you of sin.
 - c) There you will find mature men who will shepherd your souls, and brothers and sisters to encourage and aid you. Acts 20:28; Eph 4:11-16
Heb 10:24-25; 13:7,17
1Thes 5:11-14; 1Pet 5:1-4
 - d) There you will receive the Gospel in Word & Sacrament.
 - e) Thus you will continually be fed on, and by, the Spirit. John 3:5; Acts 2:38-42; Rom 10:17
1Cor 10:16; Gal 3:2; Titus 3:5
- 2) Ephesians 5:25b-30 (focusing on the church) – *“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water (baptism) with the word (Gospel preaching), that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless (justification & sanctification). So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.”*

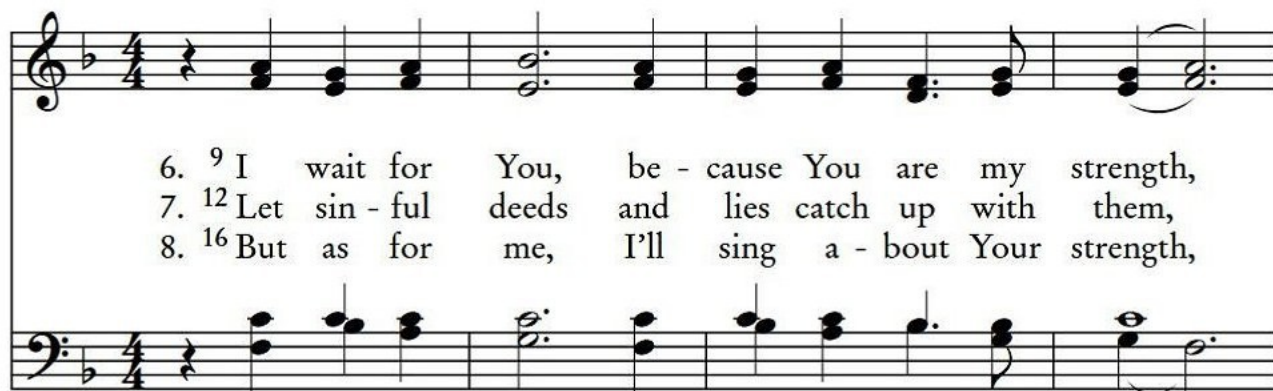
³ Matt 16:18-19; 18:18; John 14:16-17; 20:23; Acts 2:1-4,38-39,42; Rom 8:9; 1Cor 3:16; 12:27; Eph 1:22-23; 2:22; 1Tim 3:15; Titus 3:5-6; Heb 10:24-25

59B

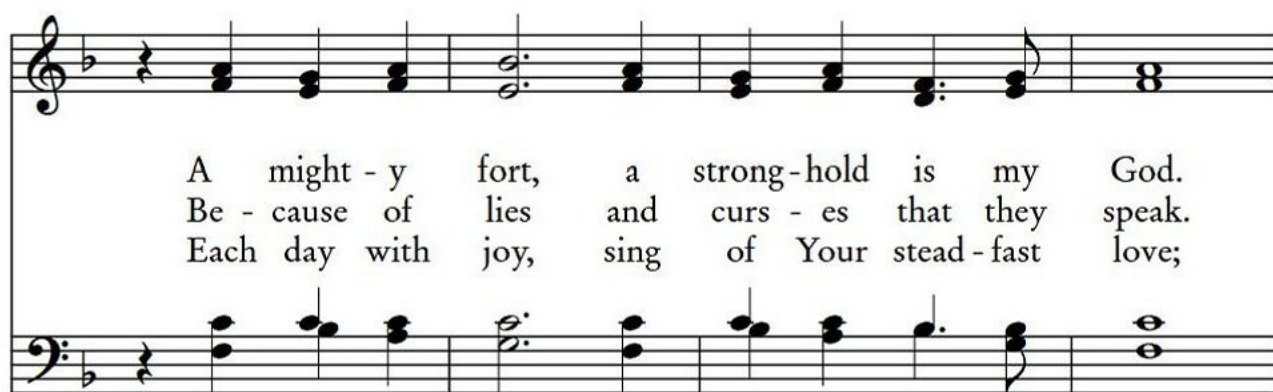
Psalms 59:9-17

I Wait For You

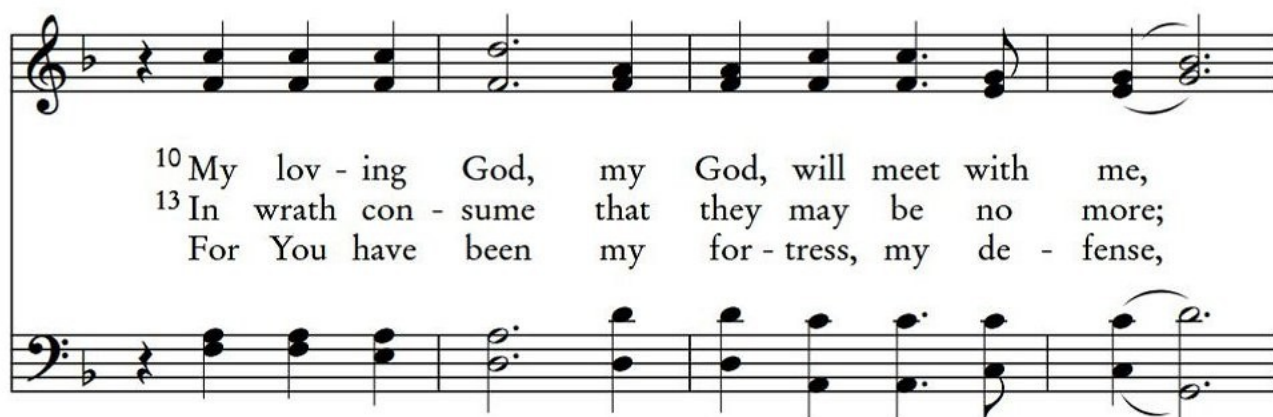
*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law
by becoming a curse for us. — Galatians 3:13*



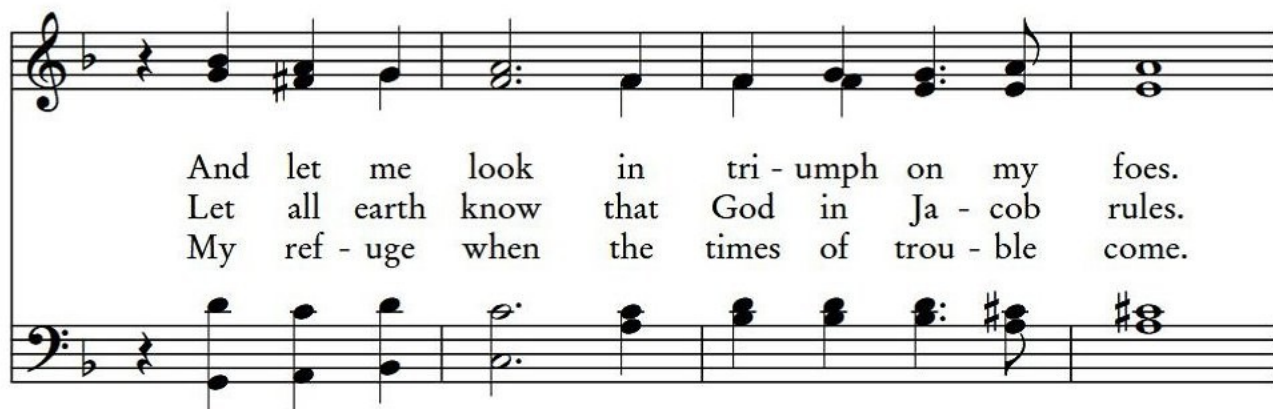
6. ⁹ I wait for You, be - cause You are my strength,
7. ¹² Let sin - ful deeds and lies catch up with them,
8. ¹⁶ But as for me, I'll sing a - bout Your strength,



A might - y fort, a strong - hold is my God.
Be - cause of lies and curs - es that they speak.
Each day with joy, sing of Your stead - fast love;



¹⁰ My lov - ing God, my God, will meet with me,
¹³ In wrath con - sume that they may be no more;
For You have been my for - tress, my de - fense,



And let me look in tri - umph on my foes.
Let all earth know that God in Ja - cob rules.
My ref - uge when the times of trou - ble come.

11 Spare them, O Lord, our Shield, lest we for - get;
 14 At night like dogs my en - e - mies re - turn;
 17 To You I sing my prais - es, O my Strength;

But in Your might dis - perse and bring them down.
 15 They prowl for food and growl un - sat - is - fied.
 For He is God my Fort, my God of love.

Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. David Hugh Jones, 1955

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