



# La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church

## SCRIPTURE

<sup>5</sup> Esther then sent for Hathach, one of the royal eunuchs whose job it was to wait on her. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was going on and why he was acting this way. <sup>6</sup> Hathach went out to Mordecai, to the city square in front of the King's Gate. <sup>7</sup> Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him. He spelled out the exact amount of silver that Haman promised to pay into the royal treasury. It was in exchange for the destruction of the Jews. <sup>8</sup> He also gave Hathach a copy of the law made public in Susa concerning the Jews' destruction so that Hathach could show it to Esther and report it to her. Through him Mordecai ordered her to go to the king to seek his kindness and his help for her people. <sup>9</sup> Hathach came back and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

<sup>10</sup> In reply Esther ordered Hathach to tell Mordecai: <sup>11</sup> "All the king's officials and the people in his provinces know that there's a single law in a case like this. Any man or woman who comes to the king in the inner courtyard without being called is to be put to death. Only the person to whom the king holds out the gold scepter may live. In my case, I haven't been called to come to the king for the past thirty days."

<sup>12</sup> When they told Mordecai Esther's words, <sup>13</sup> he had them respond to Esther: "Don't think for one minute that, unlike all the other Jews, you'll come out of this alive simply because you are in the palace. <sup>14</sup> In fact, if you don't speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family." Esther 4:5-14

September 17, 2017

**WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE.** We pray that you will be encouraged and challenged by the Gospel of Jesus Christ today. We invite you to join the larger family of LVHPC's members and friends for fellowship on the patio following worship this morning.

**\*Please stand if you are able.**

## GATHERING BEFORE GOD

### PRELUDE

### THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Gary Watson, Acolyte

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Jonathan Hughes

Leader: Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness!  
People: **In the desert, make smooth a highway for our God!**  
Leader: The rugged terrain will become a broad valley. All people will see it together.  
People: **The glory of the Lord will be revealed!**  
Leader: Praise the Lord!  
People: **The Lord's name be praised!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*o Worship the King, All Glorious Above!* (1,3,5)

### WELCOME

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elder Stacy Howard

People: **God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you. We have made idols of possessions and people and used your name for causes that are not consistent with you and your purposes. We have permitted our schedules to come first and we have lived lives of unsettled busyness. We have not taken the time to worship you. We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it. We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships. We have yearned for, and some times taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented others' intentions.**

*...moment for silent confession...*

Leader: Lord, remind us of your mercy.  
People: **Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory. Teach us to number our days and to live in rhythms of peace and justice. Help us to learn to live together according to your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Elder Stacy Howard

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** Pastor Jonathan Hughes

**†ADORATION & PRAISE**

† As we continue our worship through adoration and praise in song, we invite you to stand, sit, or kneel or move as you feel led.

**SONG** *Desert Song*

**SONG** *May Your Kingdom Come*

**SONG** *Dust We Are And Shall Return*

**BLESSING YOUNG DISCIPLES** Peggy Tomita, Children's Ministry Director

(Children 2 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade may leave for Children's Worship, which is located in the Christian Formation Center, next to the south parking lot. )

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

If you are sitting near the attendance booklet, please sign in and pass it.

**SCRIPTURE AND SERMON** Pastor Jonathan Hughes

*Wilderness Time*

*Esther 4:5-14*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*RESPONSIVE HYMN** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

**INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Elder Stacy Howard

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Rev. Lauren Evans

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**SENT TO SERVE**

**SENDING HYMN** *Called as Partners In Christ's Service*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING** Pastor Jonathan Hughes

**POSTLUDE**

Ethan Williams, Guest Organist

*Rev. Lauren Evans is available to pray with you after worship if you so desire. You can find her near the choir loft.*

**WORSHIP LEADERS:** Pastor Jonathan Hughes - Preaching; Passing of the Peace and Announcements; Elder Stacy Howard - Liturgist; Rev. Lauren Evans - Prayers of the People; Townsend Losey - Director of Music Ministry; Ethan Williams – Guest Organist; Praise Team; Esteban Frausto - Sound Technician; Gary Watson - Acolyte; Jason Price - Projection