

# Week 4: God's Will And My Worldview

## Complete Script For Worship Leaders

*“And for three days [Saul] was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.” Acts 9:9*

### **Opening Hymn**

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611 sts. 1–4



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.

## **Welcome**

### **Invocation**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

### **Confession and Absolution**

P Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law,

**C so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.**

P Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law;

**C rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.** (Romans 3:19-20)

P We know that the law is spiritual;

**C but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.**

P I do not understand what I do.

**C For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.** (Romans 7:14-15)

P So I find this law at work:

**C Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.**

P I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

**C What a wretched person I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?** (Romans 7:21, 23-24)

*(silence for personal reflection and confession)*

P At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

**C Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,**

**because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.**

P For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

**C Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!** (Romans 5:6, 8:1-3)

P What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

**C If God is for us, who can be against us?**

P It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns?

**C No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**

P Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

**C No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** (Romans 8:31, 33-37)

### **Hymn of Response**

**611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

*LSB 611 st. 5*



5 O my Savior, help afford  
By Your Spirit and Your Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply  
While I live and when I die.

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## **Prayer of the Day**

P Lord Jesus Christ, do not leave me to my own understanding. Let me now enter into that holy darkness with Saul, where my assumptions about what makes me right or good or religious can come under your scrutiny. Show me where my vision is at odds with yours. Cause the scales to fall from my eyes, that I may emerge from the dark strengthened in my witness and utterly dependent on your grace. Conform my mind and will to yours. **Amen.**

## **First Reading, Acts 7:54-58; 8:1-3**

P Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he [Stephen], full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

## **Hymn of Response**

517 By All Your Saints in Warfare

*LSB 517 st. 7*

2 Praise for the first of mar - tyrs Who  
saw You read - y stand To help in time of  
tor - ment, To plead at God's right hand. Like  
You, our suf - f'ring Sav - ior, His en - e - mies he

blessed, With "Lord, re - ceive my spir - it,"

His faith, by death, con - fessed.

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## **Second Reading, Acts 9 (selected verses)**

P Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

## **Hymn of Response**

517 By All Your Saints in Warfare

*LSB 517 st. 12*

2 Praise for the light from heav - en And

for the voice of awe; Praise for the glo - rious  
vi - sion The per - se - cu - tor saw. O  
Lord, for Paul's con - ver - sion, We bless Your name to -  
day; Come shine with - in our dark - ness,  
And guide us on our way.

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## **Sermon**

## **Offering**

## **Prayers**

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

P O Christ, who came to save the world,

**C let us see the world through your eyes.**

+

P O Lord, thank you for giving us the example of St. Paul, whose worldview was transformed in a way that brought the message of the Gospel to light in dramatic fashion. Awaken in us a sense of awe and wonder at how what Christ did for us on the cross changes everything about how we see the world and how we live our lives for him. O Christ, who came to save the world,

**C let us see the world through your eyes.**

P Sometimes, O Savior, our worldview can get blurry and out of focus. For that, we are truly sorry. Through the study of your Word, time in worship and a deeper prayer life, help us to get refocused on you and clearer in our commitment to your will and your way. O Christ, who came to save the world,

**C let us see the world through your eyes.**

P Work in the hearts of those who have turned away from you and those who seek to do your followers harm. Bring messengers of your Gospel to them, like Ananias, and warm their cold hearts that they may turn their lives around and turn toward you. Make us bold in our service to be Ananiases to those who are breathing threats against you. May we be beacons of hope and sources of saving news to all your wandering sheep. O Christ, who came to save the world,

**C let us see the world through your eyes.**

P After his conversion, St. Paul spent his life teaching and preaching the Good News of Jesus to nations far and wide, dear Lord. Let us support pastors and teachers in our faith communities to continue the work St. Paul carried out so long ago. And give us generous hearts to support the work of missionaries who serve in far-off lands, often in the very places where St. Paul set foot. Grant them receptive hearts and minds to the message of the salvation found through your death and resurrection. O Christ, who came to save the world,

**C let us see the world through your eyes.**

P St. Paul went through many trials in his time serving the Lord, and we, too, struggle as we serve you. Be with those who are sick and injured, hospitalized or homebound, especially ... Give them an extra measure of your grace, and fill them with the confidence that no matter what happens, you are with them and you will be their rock of refuge. O Christ, who came to save the world,

**C let us see the world through your eyes.**

P Dear Jesus, supply renewed resolve to all those who are persecuted throughout the world for your sake. Keep your cross always before them. Let them never succumb to fear or doubt, but only have faith that the road ahead leads ultimately to paradise with you. O Christ, who came to save the world,

**C let us see the world through your eyes.**

P All these petitions we offer in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who did the will of God and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

**C** 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 trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

## **Benediction**

P Through Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit who gives life

**C** has set you free from the law of sin and death.

P And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies

**C** because of his Spirit who lives in you.

P Now may the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you his peace.

**C** Amen.

## **Closing Hymn**

730 What Is the World to Me

LSB 730



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure  
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y  
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers  
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!  
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.  
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.  
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;  
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,  
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:  
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!  
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!  
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!  
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

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