



Our God of Grace: The One Who Shields

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"

(Roms 8.38)

Call to Worship

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory
and the victory and the majesty,
for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.

**Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.**

(1 Chr 29:11)

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Psalm 103

Praise God, my soul! With all my heart
Let me exalt his holy name.
Forget not all his benefits;
His praise, my soul, in song proclaim.
The LORD forgives you all your sins,
And heals your sickness and distress;
Your life he rescues from the grave,
And crowns you in his tenderness.

He satisfies your deep desires
From his unending stores of good,
So that, just like the eagle's strength,
Your youthful vigour is renewed.
The LORD is known for righteous acts
And justice to downtrodden ones.
To Moses he made known his ways,
His mighty deeds to Israel's sons.

The LORD is merciful and kind,
To anger slow, and full of grace.
He will not constantly reprove,
Or in his anger hide his face.
He does not punish our misdeeds,
Or give our sins their just reward.
How great his love—as high as heaven—
Towards all those who fear the LORD!

Confession and Assurance

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or remain seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful God,
We confess to you that we are by nature
sinful and unclean,
And that we have sinned against You
in thought, word, and deed;
Not only in outward transgressions,
But also in secret thoughts and desires
that we are not able to understand,
But which are all known to You.
For this reason,
we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,
Seeking and imploring Your grace
for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

"For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin." (Ps 32:3-5)

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created.

And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and

all cedars! Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him.

Praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever, age after age. Amen!

God Speaks to us through His Word

First Reading: Genesis 3 - The Fall

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-39

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Our God of Grace: The One Who Shields (Mark Payne)

Response to God's Word

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**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.
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.**

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

God's grace first taught my heart to fear,
his grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
his grace has brought me safe this far
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
my shield and great reward is he
as long as life endures.

And when this mortal life is past
and earthly days shall cease,
I shall possess with Christ at last
eternal joy and peace.

The earth will soon dissolve like snow,
the sun no longer shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be for ever mine

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Benediction and Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Sermon Notes

Today we have the second sermon in our series entitled "Our God of Grace" in which we are looking at how God in love and grace, through Christ, rescues us for Himself, and how this grace continues to pour out into our daily lives, equipping us for our daily walk with the Lord in all circumstances.

Today we consider the topic of God shielding us.

Our God of Grace

- 1. The One Who Loves*
- 2. The One Who Reconciles*
- 3. The One Who Shields***
- 4. The One Who Frees*
- 5. The Great Shepherd*

Please pray that as we look to God to know more of His grace, that He would build our confidence in His sovereign power, mercy and grace to sustain us through these challenging times, and that any fears or anxieties we may have would be dissolved by the peace of God which passes understanding (Phil 4:4-7).