



The Good News of the God Who Doesn't Need You

God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am"
(Ex 3:14)

Call to Worship

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!

**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
forever and ever. Amen!**

(Rev 5:12-13)

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 45

O King, you are most worthy,
of men you are the best
Your words are true and gracious,
you are forever blessed
Take up your sword in splendour,
ride forth in majesty
For justice and mercy
and true humility
Your arrows pierce your enemies,
you march across the land
The peoples and the nations
against you cannot stand

Your throne will last forever,
with justice you shall reign
You love all that is righteous
and hate all evil gain
So God has richly blessed you
with joy abundantly
Your robes are all fragrant,
your courts are ivory
There princesses attend you,
sweet music from of old
Your future queen awaits you
arrayed in finest gold

O bride forsake all others,
don't give your love abroad
The king desires your beauty;
so honour him your Lord
The gown he gives is glorious,
the threads are twined with gold
In shimmering colours
the envy of the world
A joyful crowd is with her,
with gladness now they sing
And finally she enters
the palace of the king

This king will reign forever,
his sons upon the earth
And ev'ry generation will tell
of his great worth
All nations will soon praise him
and fall down at his feet
His kingdom established,
where truth and mercy meet
O Jesus we adore you,
our lover and our king
Your church, your bride is waiting
and so to you we sing

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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 neighbour 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 Father,

**We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa 53:5-6)

Psalm 61

Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;
from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint.

**Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.**

Let me dwell in your tent forever!
Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings!

**For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.**

Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!
May he be enthroned forever before God;
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

**So will I ever sing praises to your name,
as I perform my vows day after day.**

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!

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Matt 5:1-16, "The Beatitudes"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Exodus 3, "The Burning Bush"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Sermon: The Good News of the God
Who Doesn't Need You (Jonty Rhodes)*

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.**

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Pro 3:9)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The stewards will distribute the wine and bread. Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Father, as we have received
these gifts of bread and wine,
you have fed us with the spiritual food
of the body and blood
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are members of his body.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again.
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness,
And clothed me with His light,
And wrote His law of righteousness
With power upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses
with strength
And causes fears to fly;

Whose every promise is enough
For every step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
Whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth
Is given by the King.
So I will give
my life, my all,
To love and follow Him.

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Benediction and Dismissal

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

Sermon Notes