



## Songs of the Saviour: Simeon's Nunc Dimittis

*“My eyes have seen your salvation that you have  
prepared in the presence of all peoples”  
(Luke 2:30,31)*

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### Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

**Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.  
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isa 12)**

Let us pray.

**Sovereign Lord, our Heavenly Father,  
it is our heart's desire, our deepest longing,  
to know you, to love you, and to worship you.  
It is our greatest pleasure,  
our highest privilege, our chief delight,  
to meet with you, the one true and living God,  
and experience your grace and favour.  
Grant us power by your Holy Spirit  
to worship you now, in spirit and in truth.**

**Amen.**

*(Valley of Vision)*

## *Sing to God New Songs of Worship (Psalm 98)*

Sing to God new songs of worship  
all his deeds are marvellous;  
he has brought salvation to us  
with his hand and holy arm.  
He has shown to all the nations  
righteousness and saving power;  
he recalled his truth and mercy  
to his people Israel.

Sing to God new songs of worship  
earth has seen his victory;  
let the lands of earth be joyful  
praising him with thankfulness.

Sound upon the harp his praises,  
play to him with melody;  
let the trumpets sound his triumph,  
show your joy to God the King!

Sing to God new songs of worship  
let the sea now make a noise;  
all on earth and in the waters,  
sound your praises to the Lord.  
Let the hills rejoice together,  
let the rivers clap their hands,  
for with righteousness and justice  
he will come to judge the earth.

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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 be 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*

*“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:76-79)*

### *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Hark the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"  
Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"  
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings

Mild He lays His glory by

Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth Hark!  
The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

## *Psalm 98*

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!**

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

**Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

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**

## The Word of God

*First Reading: Gal 5:1-26, "Christ has set us free.", p. 974*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*Second Reading: Luke 2:21-38, p. 1009*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon: Songs of the Saviour: Simeon's Nunc Dimittis (Mark Payne)*

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## Response to the Word

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together,  
proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous Gift is giv'n;  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His Heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

### *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**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**

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# 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.*

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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.**

## *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." (Prov. 3:9)*

## Doxology & Benediction

### *O God, to us Show Mercy (Psalm 67)*

O God, to us show mercy  
And bless us in your grace;  
Cause now to shine upon us  
The brightness of your face;  
That so your way most holy  
On earth may soon be known,  
And unto every people  
Your saving grace be shown.

O God, let all men praise you,  
Let all the nations sing;  
In every land let praises  
And songs of gladness ring;  
For you shall judge the people

In truth and righteousness,  
And you shall lead the nations  
Your justice to confess.

Let all the peoples praise you,  
All tongues and tribes should sing,  
For earth in rich abundance  
To us her fruit shall bring.  
The Lord our God shall bless us;  
Let all the earth maintain  
The praise it owes its Maker,  
The reverence due His name.

### *Benediction*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ,  
Amen.**