



The Promise Protected

“But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai”, (Gen 12:17)

Call to Worship

Behold, God is our salvation;
We will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD God is our strength and our song,
and he has become our salvation.

(Isa 12:2)

**Sing praises to the LORD,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.**

(Isa 12:5)

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)

O King, You Are Most Worthy (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 God's word says:

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether." (Ps 139:1-4)

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.

(1 Jn 1:8-10)

Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour, first in silence and then aloud together.

Please either kneel or be 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

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." (Rom 8:1-2)

Oh the Mercy of God

Oh the mercy of God,
The glory of grace
That You choose to redeem us,
To forgive and restore
And You call us Your children,
Chosen in Him
To be holy and blameless,
To the glory of God

*To the praise of His Glorious Grace
To the praise of His Glory and Power
To Him be all Glory, Honour and Praise
For ever and ever and ever A-men*

Oh the richness of Grace,
The depths of His love
In Him is redemption,
The forgiveness of sin
You called us as righteous,
Predestined in Him
For the praise of His Glory,
Included in Christ.

Oh the Glory of God expressed in His Son
His image and likeness revealed to us all
The plan of the ages completed in Christ
That we be presented perfected in Him

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Psalm 33:10-22 (Responsive Psalm)

The Lord brings the counsel
of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
**the plans of his heart
to all generations.**
Blessed is the nation whose God is the
Lord,
**the people whom he has
chosen as his heritage!**
The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;
from where he sits enthroned
he looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,
he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.
The king is not saved by his great army;
**a warrior is not delivered
by his great strength.**

The war horse is a false hope
for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.
Behold, the eye of the Lord
is on those who fear him,
**on those who hope
in his steadfast love,**
that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.
Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord,
be upon us,
even as we hope in you.
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's Word

First Reading: Colossians 1:15-23, "The Hope of the Gospel", (p. 983)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Gen 12:10-13:1 (p. 9)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Promise Protected (Mark Payne)

Response to God's Word

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 forever mine.

John Newton (1779)

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.

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, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.

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.

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

Be Thou, O God, Exalted High (Psalm 57)

Be Thou, O God, exalted high;
And as Your glory fills the sky,
So let it be on earth displayed,
Till You are here, as there, obeyed;
Till You are here, as there, obeyed.

Awake, my glory; harp and lute,
No longer let your strings be mute;
And I, my tuneful part to take,
Will with the early dawn awake;
Will with the early dawn awake.

O God, my heart is fixed, 'tis bent
Its thankful tribute to present;
And, with my heart, my voice I'll raise
To You, my God, in songs of praise;
To You, my God, in songs of praise.

Your praises, Lord, I will resound
To all the list'ning nations 'round;
Your mercy highest heav'n transcends;
Your truth beyond the clouds extends;
Your truth beyond the clouds extends.

Benediction

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