



God's Covenant with Abraham Unveiled (and Sealed¹)

*“And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”,
(Gen 17:7)*

Call to Worship

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!**

(1 Chr 16:8-1)

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.**

¹ Added verbally in sermon!

Amen.

Psalm 63 (O Lord My God Most Earnestly)

O LORD, my God, most earnestly
I seek your holy face,
within your house again to see
the glories of your grace.

Apart from you I long and thirst,
and naught can satisfy;
I wander in a desert land
where all the streams are dry.

The loving-kindness of my God
is more than life to me,
so I will praise you all my days
and pray continually.

In you my soul is satisfied,
my darkness turns to light,
and joyful meditations fill
the watches of the night.

Beneath the shadow of your wings
I sing my joy and praise.
Your right hand is my strong support
through troubled nights and days.
All those who seek my life will fall;
my life is in your hand.
God's king and people will rejoice;
in victory they will stand.

© Grace Psalter

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.

(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)

Psalm 103 (b)

As far as east is from the west,
So far his love has borne away
Our many sins and trespasses
And all the guilt that on us lay.
Just as a father loves his child,
So God loves those
who fear his name.
For he remembers we are dust,
And well he knows our feeble frame.

Each human life is like the grass,
And like a meadow flower it grows.
Its place will never be recalled
Once over it the tempest blows.

But everlasting is God's love
For those who fear him, and their seed—
For those who keep his covenant,
And carefully his precepts heed.

God's kingly rule is over all;
In heaven he has set his throne.
O you his angels, praise the LORD,
Strong ones by whom his will is done.
O praise the LORD, you heavenly hosts,
His servants who perform his word.
Praise God, his works
throughout his realm,
And you, my soul, O praise the LORD!

Psalm 105:1-11 (Responsive Psalm)

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Seek the Lord and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He is the Lord our God;

his judgements are in all the earth.

He remembers his covenant for ever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying

“To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”

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: Col 2:6-15, “Alive in Christ”, p. 984

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Gen 17:1-27, p. 11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: God's Covenant with Abraham Unveiled (Mark Payne)

Response to God's Word

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.**

Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb
who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made
that all who come in faith,
Find forgiveness at the cross.

*So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace,
Around the table of the King.*

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember,
The wounds that heal,
the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.

Chorus

The blood that cleanses
every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember.
He drained death's cup
that all may enter in,
To receive the life of God.

Chorus

And so with thankfulness and faith,
We rise to respond: and to remember.
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ,
As His body here on earth.

*As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.*

*Stuart Townend, Keith & Kristyn Getty.
© 2007 Thankyou Music*

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Benediction

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

Please diarise the dates below and pray for these upcoming events:

19 - 20 March	Church Family Weekend with Matt Searles
29 March	An Evening with Rory Steyn at Godolphin School
30 March	An Evening with Rory Steyn at St George's Church, Bulford
3 April	Chris Sinkinson at CCS
6 April	Hope Explored begins for three weeks

CCLI Licence No. 731672. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)