



Sarah's Disbelief

"Is anything too hard for the LORD?" (Gen 18:15)

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.

**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 139

O Lord, You have searched me,
and You know my ways;
You perceive
all my thoughts from afar.
Your hand is upon me
wherever I go;
before I can speak,
You already know

*If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
You are there;
If I rest on the far side of the sea,
Your love hems me in
both behind and before;
You have laid Your hand upon me;
You have laid Your hand upon me.*

Where can I flee
from Your presence, O Lord?
If I sleep in the depths,
You are there.
Your day will consume
all the shadows of night;
The dark cannot hide
from Your brilliant light.

Chorus

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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.
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

Have mercy on us, O God,

**According to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy,
blot out our transgressions.**

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin!

For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

**Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgement.**

Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it;

you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51)

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)

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation,
you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith
in his excellent word!
What more can he say
than to you he has said –
To you, who to Jesus
for refuge have fled?

In every condition
in sickness and health,
in poverty's vale,
or abounding in wealth;
at home or abroad,
on the land, on the sea,
as days may demand,
shall your strength ever be.

Fear not, I am with you,
O be not dismayed!
For I am your God
and will still give you aid:
I'll strengthen you, help you,
and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous,
omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials
your pathway shall lie,
my grace all-sufficient
shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you;
I only design
your dross to consume,
and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus
has leaned for repose,
I will not, I cannot,
desert to his foes;
that soul, though all Hell
should endeavour to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!

Richard Keen (c.1787) MMRrecords

Psalm 63:1-11.

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah

O God, you are my God;
earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you
in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love
is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul will be satisfied
as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you
with joyful lips,
when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you
in the watches of the night;

for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings
I will sing for joy.

My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.
But those who seek
to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths
of the earth;
they shall be given over
to the power of the sword;
they shall be a portion for jackals.

But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

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: Heb 11:8-16, p. 1007

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Gen 18:1-15, p. 12

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Sarah's Disbelief (David Thornhill-Smith)

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin

Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God
With Christ my Saviour and my God

*Charitie Bancroft, Vikki Cook.
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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.

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

Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, of your word for us.

We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, and that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom.

We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory.

Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:6-7)*

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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