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## *The Incomparable Christ*

### Being Deeply Grateful

*“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel.” (Col 1:3-5)*

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### 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!**

*(Ps. 105:1-4)*

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*

## *Psalm 145. God My King.*

God my king, I will extol you  
Bless your name forevermore  
Every day, I'll sing your goodness  
Hymn the greatness of the Lord  
You are praised  
through generations  
of your works we'll always tell  
We will praise  
your matchless goodness  
Praise the God of Israel

God is merciful and gracious  
Slow to anger, rich in love  
He is good to all his creatures  
Showers blessings from above  
All your works  
shall bless and thank you  
Tell of all your mighty deeds  
Celebrate your wondrous kingdom  
You shall reign in majesty

Lord your throne will last forever  
You will reign from age to age  
You are faithful to your promise  
You are kind in all your ways  
You uphold  
the weak and falling  
Give your strength to weary feet  
From your hand  
you pour forth blessing,  
Satisfy our every need

God is righteous to his promise  
He is kind in all his ways  
He is near to those who seek him  
Yet the wicked casts away  
He fulfils  
the good desire  
Of his saints who fear his name  
Let all peoples praise his goodness  
And forever sing his praise

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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.**

God's word tells us:

*"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,  
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy."* (Prov 28:13)

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

*Please kneel or be seated.*

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)

## *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood  
and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When weary in this earthly race,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every wild and stormy gale  
my anchor holds and will not fail.

His vow, his covenant and blood  
are my defence against the flood;  
when earthly hopes  
are swept away  
he will uphold me on that day.

When the last trumpet's  
voice shall sound,  
O may I then in him be found!  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before his throne.

*Edward Mote (1879-1874)  
© Jubilate Hymns Ltd*

## *Psalm 128*

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,  
who walks in his ways!

**You shall eat the fruit of the labour of  
your hands; you shall be blessed, and  
it shall be well with you.**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house; your children will be  
like olive shoots around your table.

**Behold, thus shall the man be blessed  
who fears the LORD.**

The LORD bless you from Zion! May you  
see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the  
days of your life!

**May you see your children's children!  
Peace be upon Israel!**

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: Gen 1, p.1*

This is the Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

*Second Reading: Col 1:1-8, p. 983*

This is the Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon: The Incomparable Christ:  
Being Deeply Grateful (David Thornhill-Smith)*

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### *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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## *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*

**Heavenly Father, we offer you eternal praise and thanks that you have given so blessed us poor sinners, that we would be drawn into the Communion of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, whom you have delivered to death for us, and whom you have given us as the food and drink of life eternal. We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, and 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.

*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)*

## 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.

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.**

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## Notices

**Please diarise and pray for the items below:**

<b>IN THE WEEK</b>		
<b>Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Fellowship Group</b>	Speak to Alan if you'd like to know more
<b>Wed 12<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Fellowship Group</b>	Speak to Mark if you'd like to know more
<b>Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	Online
<b>Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	Col 1:9-14, Prayer for God's People
<b>FURTHER AHEAD</b>		
<b>Thu 27<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Talking Faith &amp; Music</b>	Evening with Jeff Hammer (Friends welcome!)

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)*