



The Incomparable Christ

Complete in Him

*“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
and you have been filled in him,
who is the head of all rule and authority.” (Col 2:9)*

Call to Worship

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the victory and the majesty,
for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.

**Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.**

(1 Chr 29:11)

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.**

My Soul, Bless the Lord (Psalm 104)

My soul, bless the Lord!
The Lord is most great,
with glory arrayed,
majestic His state;
the light is His garment,
the skies are His shade,
and over the waters
His courts He has laid.

He rides on the clouds,
the wings of the storm,
the lightning and wind
His bidding perform;
the earth He has founded;
it firmly shall stand,
with waters its clothing
ordained from His hand.

He waters the hills
with rain from the skies,
and plentiful grass
and herbs He supplies,
gives food to the cattle,
and blesses our toil
with bread in abundance,
with wine and with oil.

The trees which the Lord
has planted are fed,
and over the earth
their branches are spread;
they keep in their shelter
the birds of the air,
the life of each creature
the Lord makes His care.

Your Spirit, O Lord,
makes life to abound,
the earth is renewed,
and fruitful the ground;
to God be all glory
and wisdom and might,
let God in His creatures
forever delight.

Rejoicing in God,
my thought shall be sweet,
while sinners depart
in ruin complete;
my soul, bless Jehovah,
His name be adored;
come praise Him, you people,
and worship the Lord!

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 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

"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)

O Church, Arise

O Church, arise, and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say
that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle-cry is Love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword
that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure,

And Christ will have
the prize for which He died,
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross,
where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes
lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come
put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle,
That we may run
with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.

Psalm 72

Give the king your justice, O God, and
your righteousness to the royal son!
May he judge your people with
righteousness, and your poor with
justice!

**Let the mountains bear prosperity for
the people, and the hills, in
righteousness!**

May he defend the cause of the poor of
the people, give deliverance to the
children of the needy, and crush the
oppressor!

**May they fear you while the sun
endures, and as long as the moon,
throughout all generations!**

May he be like rain that falls on the
mown grass, like showers that water the
earth!

**In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no
more!**

May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the
earth!

**May desert tribes bow down before
him, and his enemies lick the dust!**

May the kings of Tarshish and of the
coastlands render him tribute;
**may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring
gifts!**

May all kings fall down before him, all
nations serve him!

For he delivers the needy when he

As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls
and hunger for the day
When with Christ
we stand in glory

**calls, the poor and him who has no
helper.**

He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he
redeems their life, and precious is
their blood in his sight.**

Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be
given to him!

**May prayer be made for him
continually, and blessings invoked for
him all the day!**

May there be abundance of grain in the
land; on the tops of the mountains may
it wave;

**may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may
people blossom in the cities like the
grass of the field!**

May his name endure forever, his fame
continue as long as the sun!

**May people be blessed in him, all
nations call him blessed!**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his
glory! Amen and Amen!**

*The prayers of David, the son of Jesse,
are ended.*

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: Rom 6:1-14, p. 942

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Col 2:11-15, p. 984

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Complete in Him (Mark Payne)

Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor

Christ, the sure and steady anchor
In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt
blow through me
And my sails have all been torn.
In the suff'ring, in the sorrow,
When my sinking hopes are few,
I will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor
While the tempest rages on,
When temptation claims the battle
And it seems the night has won;
Deeper still then goes the anchor
Though I justly stand accused;
I will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor
Through the floods of unbelief;
Hopeless somehow,
O my soul, now
Lift your eyes to Calvary.
This, my ballast of assurance;
See His love forever proved;
I will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor
As we face the wave of death,
When these trials give way to glory,
As we draw our final breath;
We will cross that great horizon,
Clouds behind and life secure,
And the calm will be the better
For the storms that we endure.

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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.

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.**

Amen.

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)

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.

Notices

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

IN THE WEEK		
Mon 9th Jan	Fellowship Group	The Lord's Prayer
Wed 11th Jan	Fellowship Group	The Lord's Prayer
Thu 12th Jan	Prayer Meeting	7.15pm. Online. Details will be circulated.
Sun 15th Jan	Morning Worship	Col 2:16-23, "Freed in Him"
FURTHER AHEAD		
Thurs 9th Mar	Bi-Annual Church Meeting	
Sat / Sun 18th-19th Mar	Church Family Weekend	

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