



## *Fruitful Repentance*

*“In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matt 3:1,2)*

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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!**

*(Psalm 105:1-4)*

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 103

Bless the Lord, my inmost being,  
lift up high his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, all that's within me,  
ponder all his deeds of grace.  
He forgives our great transgression,  
heals and lifts us from the grave,  
crowns our life with love and mercy  
satisfies us all our days.

He brings justice for the needy,  
makes them rise on eagle's wings.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
shows to Israel his deeds.  
He is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger, rich in love.  
He will turn aside his anger,  
shower blessings from above.

For as high as highest heaven,  
is the Lord's unending love!  
Far as East is from the West, he  
has removed our sins from us.

Like a Father to his children,  
he is merciful to us.  
Shows compassion in our weakness;  
he remembers we are dust.

As for man, we bloom and flourish  
like a flower of the grass.  
Then we wither, then we perish.  
all our days so quickly pass.  
But God's love for those who fear him  
will endure from age to age!  
For our children and their children;  
those who walk in all his ways.

He has set his throne in heaven  
all his purpose to fulfil!  
Bless the Lord, O you his angels,  
you who do his sovereign will.  
Bless the Lord all you his servants,  
you who tremble at his word.  
Bless the Lord, all of creation,  
O my soul now bless the Lord!

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## Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

*"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.**

God's word tells us:

*"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 1:8-9)

Let us therefore 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 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*

*"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to  
righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but  
have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Pet 2:24-25)*

### *In Christ Alone*

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought  
and storm.  
What heights of love,  
what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled,  
when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones  
He came to save  
Till on that cross  
as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God  
was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*Stuart Townend & Keith Getty*  
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## God's Word

*First Reading: Isa 40, The Glory of the Lord Revealed, p. 599*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

*Psalm 78: 1-8 (Call to Wisdom)*

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
**incline your ears to the words of my mouth!**

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will  
utter dark sayings from of old, things that  
we have heard and known, that our  
fathers have told us.

**We will not hide them from their  
children, but tell to the coming  
generation the glorious deeds of the  
Lord, and his might, and the wonders  
that he has done.**

He established a testimony in Jacob and  
appointed a law in Israel, which he  
commanded our fathers to teach to their  
children,

**that the next generation might know  
them, the children yet unborn, and  
arise and tell them to their children,**

**so that they should set their hope in  
God and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;**  
and that they should not be like their  
fathers, a stubborn and rebellious  
generation,  
**a generation whose heart was not  
steadfast, whose spirit was not  
faithful to God.**

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!**

*Second Reading: Matt 3:1-12, Fulfilling the Law Through Love, p. 808*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon: Fruitful Repentance (Mark Payne)*

### *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health  
restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

### *Creed (Heidelberg Catechism)*

Believer, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,  
am not my own, but belong to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins,  
and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;  
and so preserves me that without the will of my Father in heaven  
not a hair can fall from my head;  
indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.  
Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,  
and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live unto Him.**

### *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.**

*Please be seated.*

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## 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, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.*

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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.**

*The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.*

*Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.*

## *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.

*"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deut 16:17)*

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## *Psalm 134*

You servants of the LORD our God  
who work and pray both day and night,  
in God's own house lift up your hands  
and praise the LORD with all your might.

The LORD God bless you  
from his throne,  
the LORD show you his gracious face.  
He who created heaven and earth  
give you his everlasting peace.

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## **Benediction**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

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