



## *Righteousness and Retaliation*

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist by evil means. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”*  
(Matt 5:38-39)

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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.

**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 about his knowledge of us:

*"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."*

*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 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)*

## *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  
© 1997 Sovereign Grace Music  
(Isa 49:16, Rom 3:21-26,  
Col 3:3, Heb 7:25)*

## God's Word

### *First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-51:3*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *Responsive Psalm: Psalm 106:17-22*

Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.**

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

**And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!**

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 5:38-42, p. 810*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *Sermon: Righteousness and Retaliation (Mark Payne)*

## *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) MMRecords*

## *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.**

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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, 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)

## 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.

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.

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.

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 & Dismissal

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

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## Notes & Notices

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

THIS WEEK		
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Psalm Sing	7.30pm
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Morning Worship	Matt 5:43-48 (Righteousness & Loving Your Enemy)

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