



Life With Our Father

“Beware of practising your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.” (Matt 6:1)

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 (Your Hand Upon Me)

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

Eric Grover, © 2001 Sovereign Grace

Confession and Assurance

God's word tells 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

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.

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise.

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

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” (Rom 5:8-9)

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.

God's Word

First Reading: Matthew 23

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 81

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob! Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day.

For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob. He made it a decree in Joseph when he went out over the land of Egypt.

I hear a language I had not known: "I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket. In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me! There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god. I am the LORD your God,

who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

"But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!

I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever. But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

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 6:1-8, 16-18, p. 810

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Life With Our Father (Mark Payne)

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Robert Robinson, 1758
The Psalter Hymnal, 1987

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

**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 34 (Tell His Praise in Song & Story)

Tell his praise in song and story,
bless the Lord with heart and voice;
in my God is all my glory,
come before him and rejoice.
Join to praise his name together,
he who hears his people's cry;
tell his praise, come wind or weather,
shining faces lifted high.

To the Lord whose love has found them
cry the poor in their distress;
swift his angels camped around them
prove him sure to save and bless.
God it is who hears our crying
though the spark of faith be dim;
Taste and see, beyond denying
blessed are those who trust in him.

Taste and see, in faith draw near him,
trust the Lord with all your powers;
seek and serve him, love and fear him,
life and all its joys are ours:
true delight in holy living,
peace and plenty, length of days;
come, my children, with thanksgiving,
bless the Lord in songs of praise.

In our need he walks beside us,
ears alert to every cry;
watchful eyes to guard and guide us,
love that whispers 'It is I'.
Good shall triumph, wrong be righted,
God has pledged his promised word;
so with ransomed saints united,
join to praise our living Lord!

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Benediction & Dismissal

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