



Abundant Grace

“The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” (Ruth 2:12)

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 105:2-4)

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 95 (Now with Joyful Exaltation)

Now with joyful exultation
let us to the Lord sing praise;
to the Rock of our salvation
loud hosannas let us raise;
thankful tribute gladly bringing,
let us come before Him now,
and, with psalms His praises singing,
joyful in His presence bow.

For, how great a God, and glorious,
is the Lord of whom we sing;
over idol gods victorious,
great is He, our God and King.
In His hand are earth's deep places,
His the strength of all the hills;
His the sea whose bounds He traces,
His the land His bounty fills.

To the Lord, such might revealing,
let us come with rev'rence meet,
and, before our Maker kneeling,
let us worship at His feet.
He is our own God who leads us,
we the people of His care;
with a shepherd's hand He feeds us
as His flock in pastures fair.

While He offers peace and pardon
let us hear His voice today,
lest, if we our hearts should harden,
we should perish in the way;
lest to us, so unbelieving,
He in judgment should declare:
*"You, so long My Spirit grieving,
never in My rest can share."*

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Confession and Assurance

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deut 6:4-7)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." (Joel 2:12-13)

So we will 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 are unworthy to come into your presence
because of our many sins.**

**We would not receive any grace or mercy from you
if you dealt with us as we deserve.**

**We have sinned against you, O Lord,
and we have offended you.**

**And yet, as we acknowledge our sins and offences,
so we also acknowledge you to be a merciful God,
a loving and favourable Father, to all who turn to you.**

**And so, we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your Son,
to show us mercy, and forgive us all our offenses.**

**Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age;
by your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts,
so that not only the actions of our lives,
but also the words of our mouths,
and the smallest thoughts of our minds,
may be guided and governed by you.**

**This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, now and forever.**

Amen.

Knox's Liturgy (IPC Book of Liturgy)

Assurance of Pardon

*“Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ,
alienated from the commonwealth of Israel
and strangers to the covenants of promise,
having no hope and without God in the world.*

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (Eph 2:12-13)*

Psalm 28 (I Cry To You, O LORD My Rock)

I cry to You, O LORD, my Rock
to me do not be deaf;
If You are silent I'll descend
into the pit of death.
O hear my supplicating voice
when unto You I cry;
When to Your holy dwelling place
I lift my hands up high.

O drag me not away with those
who work iniquity;
Who to their neighbours speak of peace
while plotting treachery.
Repay them justly for their deeds,
the evil of their way;
And for the things their hands have done
a due reward repay.

Since they do not regard the works
and actions of His hand,
The LORD will surely tear them down,
He will not let them stand.

The LORD be blessed,
He heard my voice
when unto Him I cried.
The LORD's my strength,
He is my shield;
on Him my heart relied.

I have been helped,
my heart is glad;
my joyous praise I'll sing.
The LORD's His people's strength,
He saves
His own anointed king.
O save Your people,
give them help;
and bless Your heritage.
Be their own Shepherd,
carry them
secure through every age.

*Scottish Psalter
William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868*

God's Word

First Reading: Eph 2:11-22, p. 976

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

Responsive Text: Psalm 69:30-36

To the Choirmaster: According to Lilies. Of David.

I will praise the name of God with a
song; I will magnify him
with thanksgiving.
**This will please the LORD more than an
ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.**

When the humble see it they will be
glad; you who seek God, let your hearts
revive.
**For the LORD hears the needy and does
not despise his own people who are
prisoners.**

Let heaven and earth praise him, the
seas and everything that moves in them.
**For God will save Zion and build up the
cities of Judah, and people shall dwell
there and possess it; the offspring of
his servants shall inherit it, and those
who love his name shall dwell in it.**

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: Ruth 2:1-23, p. 222

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

Sermon: Abundant Grace! (Reuben Hunter)

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; (w)
hangs my helpless soul on thee; (w)
leave, ah! leave me not alone, (m)
still support and comfort me. (m)

All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Charles Wesley, 1740

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

Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, of your word for us.

We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom.

We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, 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.

"Honour the LORD with your wealth

and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Prov 3:9)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee
Day-spring from on high, appear.
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of Thy birth, we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to Him your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to earth!"

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end.
By His life He brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*Charles Wesley (1744), v. 1, 4.
© Mark Hunt (1978), v. 2,3.*

Benediction

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

Notices for Calendars & Prayers

In the week...

Today	Pledge Letters	
Thu 4 th Dec	Psalm Sing (TCC)	7pm
Sun 7 th Dec	Morning Worship (Gospel Hope, Zech 8:1-8) . Church Lunch . Leaflet Drop	10am

Further ahead...

Sat 20 th Dec	Carol Service (TCC)	5pm
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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV). CCLI Licence: 731672.