

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 12th September 2021

Welcome and call to worship

"I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word." (Psalm 138:1-2)

Songs: Praise my soul the King of Heaven; King of Kings, Majesty

1. Praise my soul the King of heaven

To His feet your tribute bring
Ransomed healed restored forgiven
Who like me His praise should sing
Praise Him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Praise the everlasting King

2. Praise Him for His grace and favour

To our fathers in distress
Praise Him still the same for ever
Slow to anger swift to bless
Praise Him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Glorious in His faithfulness

3. Father like He tends and spares us

Well our human frame He knows
In His hands He gently bears us
Rescues us from all our foes
Praise Him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Widely as His mercy flows

4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish

Blows the wind and it is gone
But while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on
Praise Him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Praise the high eternal One

5. Angels help us to adore Him

You behold Him face to face
Sun and moon bow down before Him
All who dwell in time and space
Praise Him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Praise with us the God of grace

King of Kings, Majesty,
God of heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest friend,
strong deliverer, beginning and end.
All within me falls at your throne.

Earth and heaven worship you,
love eternal, faithful and true.
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
brought this sinner near to your throne.
All within me cries out in praise.

*Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all, before you now.
In royal robes, I don't deserve
I live to serve your Majesty.*

Confessing our sins and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices
and desires of our own hearts.
We have broken your holy laws.
We have left undone what we ought to have done,
and we have done what we ought not to have done.
O Lord have mercy on us pitiful sinners.
Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.
Restore those who truly repent,
as you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a godly, righteous, and disciplined life,
to the praise of your holy name. Amen.**

Song: The grace of God has reached for me

1. The grace of God has reached for me

And pulled me from the raging sea
And I am safe on this solid ground
The Lord is my salvation

2. I will not fear when darkness falls
His strength will help me scale these walls
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun
The Lord is my salvation

*Who is like the Lord our God
Strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid and the victory won
The Lord is my salvation*

3. My hope is hidden in the Lord
He flow'rs each promise of His Word
When winter fades I know spring will come
The Lord is my salvation

4. In times of waiting times of need
When I know loss when I am weak
I know His grace will renew these days
The Lord is my salvation

Who is like the Lord our God...

5. And when I reach the final day
He will not leave me in the grave
But I will rise He will call me home
The Lord is my salvation

Congregational Bible reading: Psalm 61

Prayers of intercession

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and
forever. Amen.**

Song: Speak, O Lord, as we come to you

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
all your purposes, for your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises:
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Bible reading and sermon –2 Corinthians 1:8-11 – “devoted... to prayer”

Praying is hard!

Hebrews 4:15, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

John 8:44, “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires.”

Praying is wonderful!

John 1:12, “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”

WCF, chapter 12, “All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God, have his name put upon them, receive the Spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry, Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him, as by a father: yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption; and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.”

1 Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on him, for he cares for you.”

Praying changes the world

2 Corinthians 1:8-11, “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,^[a] about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”

Song: O great God of highest heaven

1. O great God of highest heaven

Occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme
Conquer every rebel power
Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war
You have loved and purchased me
Make me Yours forevermore

2. I was blinded by my sin
Had no ears to hear Your voice
Did not know Your love within
Had no taste for heaven's joys
Then Your Spirit gave me life
Opened up Your Word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son
Gave me endless hope and peace

3. Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed
O great God of highest heaven
Glorify Your Name through me

Final prayer and blessing

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