



P: ¹ Praise the Lord
Praise God in his sanctuary;
 praise him in his mighty heavens.
² Praise him for his acts of power;
 praise him for his surpassing greatness.
³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
 praise him with the harp and lyre,
⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,
 praise him with the strings and pipe,
⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
 praise him with resounding cymbals.
⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord. ~ Psalm 150

Opening Hymn

Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for the springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall, on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's re-creation of the new day

Words by Eleanor Farjeon 1931 and is set to a traditional Scottish Gaelic tune known as "Bunessan"

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. **(To be repeated thrice)**

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

***All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.***

(Cong. to be seated)

Lesson 1 Exodus 15:1-21

Lesson 2 Acts 3:1-10

Meditation

L: God's Passion for Singing

God's heart for setting words to melodies is evident from even a casual reading of the Psalms.

Psalms 96 says "Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day".

Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! (Psalm 47:6)

In just four verses we're commanded to sing seven times.

The Bible contains over four hundred references to singing and fifty direct commands to sing. The longest book of the Bible, the Psalms, is a book of songs. And in the New Testament we're commanded to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to one another when we meet (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

Why does God so often tell us not simply to praise him but to sing his praises when we meet? Why not just pray and preach? Why sing? Why are God's people throughout history always singing? Why words and music and not just words alone? Why does God want us to sing?

One reason is that God himself sings. In Zephaniah 3:17 God exalts over his people "with loud singing."

On the eve of his crucifixion, Jesus sang hymns with his disciples (Matthew 26:30). Hebrews 2:12 and Psalm 22:22 says, "In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." And Ephesians 5 tells us that one effect of being "filled with the Spirit" is "addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" (verses 18–19).

We worship a triune God who sings, and he wants us to be like him.

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/words-of-wonder-what-happens-when-we-sing>

Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall,
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him.
And crown him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race
A remnant weak and small,
A remnant weak and small,
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him.
And crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe
On this terrestrial ball,
On this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him.
And crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
we at his feet may fall!
Join in the everlasting song..
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him.
And crown him Lord of all.

Author: Edward Perronet (1780)

Tune: CORONATION (Holden)

L: The Gift to Sing

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,
And blackening clouds about me cling;
But, oh, I have a magic way
To turn the gloom to cheerful day—
I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still,

Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing,
With glad defiance in my throat,
I pierce the darkness with a note,
 And sing, and sing.

I brood not over the broken past,
Nor dread whatever time may bring;
No nights are dark, no days are long,
While in my heart there swells a song,
 And I can sing.
James Weldon Johnson, 1871 – 1938

L: The Arrow And The Song –

I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong,
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1864

Congregation to stand

Psalm 103

P: ¹ Praise the Lord, my soul;
 all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

² Praise the Lord, my soul,
 and forget not all his benefits—

C: ³ who forgives all your sins
 and heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
 and crowns you with love and compassion,

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

P: ⁶ The Lord works righteousness
 and justice for all the oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
 his deeds to the people of Israel:

C: ⁸ The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

P: ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

C: ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

P: ¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.

C: ¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—
¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.

P: ¹⁹ The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
²⁰ Praise the Lord, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.

C: ²¹ Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
²² Praise the Lord, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the Lord, my soul.

Confession

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

P: Dear Heavenly Father, we bow our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours.

C: Dear Lord, sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. For these we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may be a witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You

would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth. Amen

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

Intercessory Prayers

L: Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

Each one of us has our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

C: I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free.

*Sing, oh sing, of my Redeemer,
With His blood, He purchased me.
On the cross, He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt, and made me free.*

L: In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

C: I will tell the wondrous story,
How my lost estate to save,
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave.

L: We pray for our nation and its leaders and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our troubled world. As we celebrate our Republic day we thank You for your guidance of our great nation throughout these years. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them. We remember all those who sacrificed their life for the nation.

Bring our nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

C: I will praise my dear Redeemer,
His triumphant power I'll tell,
How the victory He giveth
Over sin, and death, and hell.

L: We pray for our choirs, help them to understand the words they sing and bless them as they sing
Your praises.

As we look back over the past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have
deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may
they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center
of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it
with expectancy and faith. This we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and
resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come. Amen

C: I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.

Hymn- Words: Philip P. Bliss, 1876. Music: James McGranahan, 1877

Prayer – Billy Graham Prayer- <https://billygraham.org/story/billy-grahams-prayer-for-the-new-year-4/>

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as
recorded by Luke 8:26-39

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our
Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed
Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that
we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things
visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all
world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the
Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from
heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was
crucified † also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He
rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He

will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever will be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, Music: William M. Runyan © 1923,

Offertory Hymn

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!

Carl G. Boberg (1859-1940)Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)

MESSAGE

Closing Prayer

P: Our Father's love reigns over us,
His love binds us together as one...

C: We join in the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars begun;
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward
In the triumph song of life. Amen

Prayer and Benediction

May there be thanks and praise to God on every tongue
May your hearts always rejoice in the words that are sung
May His great faithfulness to you peace and joy bring
And may your Soul in awesome wonder always sing -
My Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

And may God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever more. Amen

Doxology and Kiss of peace

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

'Ode to Joy' Ludwig van Beethoven
Words written by Henry van Dyke in 1907

Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- Jan 2017