

# PRaise

## **With a heart filled with thanks and praise**

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice

### **Opening hymn**

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.  
Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk; he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise;  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;  
his mercy is forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.  
Words: William Kethe. Music: Louis Bourgeois

### **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.**

### **P: Prayer**

Dear Lord, thank you so much for another day of life on Earth. Thank you for another beautiful sunrise to enjoy. Thank you for the wonderful sounds of nature, from the cool breeze brushing through the trees to the birds singing melodies. You are a wonderful God, full of grace and mercy. We praise you for allowing us another day to spend with our church family. Amen.  
"The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the dove is heard in our land." Song of Solomon 2:12

(Cong. to be seated)

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson- 2 Chronicles 34: 29-33**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson - Acts 8: 26-40**

### **Meditation**

#### **L: The Rightful king regains his throne**

The first blessing and command of the new king.

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20

When a new King was ready to assume his throne in ancient times, tradition required a ceremony of pomp and power. In regal splendor the ruler stepped forward to assume the symbols of authority: a crown, a scepter, or a throne. The former king was gone, defeated or deceased. The new ruler was now elevated to his rightful place and from this time ruled the territory under his dominion.

#### **Jesus' resurrection and Enthronement**

In the climax of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus the King has finally defeated the "prince of this world." All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me."

The first command of this new king, Jesus, to "go and make disciples of all nations" is also the first blessing of the enthroned king. It is a blessing that promises the sharing of his power, and the

responsibility to assert the rightful reign of God over his entire creation. It is also the blessing of his presence. Surely he will be with us always even "to the very end of the age."  
The followers of King Jesus now take the good news to all nations, the news that the illegitimate reign of Satan is coming to an end, that the victory of Jesus has already been established, and the good news that all people everywhere can now begin to obey everything that he has commanded.

Dear Lord, help us to share your Words and be examples of your life so that many more can rejoice in knowing and understanding You.

### **C: Hymn**

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;  
The Son and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;  
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636 Music: attributed to Johann Crüger, 1647

### **L: A Poem of Hope**

I feel the arms of God around me,  
as I lay on my bed at night.  
Asleep, I feel the Angel's touch-  
I'm surrounded and held tight.

I don't know why it is,  
that God should love me so,  
that he would send His only Son,  
to hang there on Death-row.

He guards me night and day,  
always bringing love and hope.  
Somehow, I know I will survive,  
for He will help me cope.

As a father has compassion on his child,  
so my Lord has compassion on me.  
I know I can count on him-  
There is nowhere from His love I want to flee.  
by Helena Fehr

(Cong to stand)

## Thanksgiving Prayer - Psalm 40

**P:** <sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he turned to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.

**C:** <sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear the Lord  
and put their trust in him.

**P:** <sup>4</sup> Blessed is the one  
who trusts in the Lord,  
who does not look to the proud,  
to those who turn aside to false gods.

**C:** <sup>5</sup> Many, Lord my God,  
are the wonders you have done,  
the things you planned for us.  
None can compare with you;  
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,  
they would be too many to declare.

**P:** <sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—  
but my ears you have opened  
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

**C:** <sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—  
it is written about me in the scroll.

<sup>8</sup> I desire to do your will, my God;  
your law is within my heart."

<sup>9</sup> I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;  
I do not seal my lips, Lord,  
as you know.

**P:** <sup>10</sup> I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;  
I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.  
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness  
from the great assembly.

**C:** <sup>11</sup> Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord;  
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

<sup>12</sup> For troubles without number surround me;  
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.  
They are more than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails within me.

<sup>13</sup> Be pleased to save me, Lord;  
come quickly, Lord, to help me.

**P:** <sup>14</sup> May all who want to take my life

be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin  
be turned back in disgrace.  
15 May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"  
be appalled at their own shame.

**C:** 16 But may all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who long for your saving help always say,  
"The Lord is great!"

17 But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
may the Lord think of me.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
you are my God, do not delay.

### **Intercessory Prayer**

L: Lord, we thank you  
For peaceful homes, bonds of love and affection;  
For the fellowship deepened by living, eating and praying together and by the sharing of each other's  
burdens;  
For happiness enjoyed and sorrows overcome;  
For parents in whose love we first saw your love;  
For children, their innocence, sense of wonder, their openness and their sincere affection;  
For the young, their search for ideals, their impatience and their struggle for truth and newness;  
For the aged, the blessings of their wisdom, deepened by experience;  
For the sanctities of family life, the guidance and correction we receive from each other;  
For our own homes, the caring, the security and the discipline we receive;  
For Our Church and the abundance of blessings we receive. Amen

**C:** To be sung-

**Sing halleluiah to the Lord (2)**  
**Sing halleluiah, Sing halleluiah,**  
**Sing halleluiah to the Lord**

L: We thank you, O Lord  
For our Lord's days upon the earth;  
For the record of his deeds of love;  
For the words he spoke for our guidance and help;  
For his sympathy with suffering of every kind,  
For His meekness of bearing, so that when reviled, He reviled not again;  
For His steadiness of purpose in keeping to His appointed task;  
For his obedience even unto death;  
For His triumph over death;  
For the presence of His Spirit with us now.

***C: Jesus is Risen from the dead (2)***  
***Jesus is Risen, Jesus is Risen***  
***Jesus is Risen from the dead***

**L:** Lord, we pray

For the Church of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of all believers round the world

For the apostles and martyrs of the Church who gave their lives, that we in our life may receive the good news of divine grace and forgiveness;

For your faithful disciples in every generation who on becoming willing instruments of your care and mercy, placed You first in their lives and kept the faith through thick and thin;

For confessors and martyrs who refuse to deny your faith, even at the cost of their lives;

For the prophetic voices that awaken the Church to new awareness of its mission;

For the Church of which we are members, for the continued renewal and encouragement we receive and for our life together in the Lord;

For the growth of the Church even today in spite of threats of disunity and discord;

For the World Council of Church and other movements that provide possibilities for greater unity between different communities;

For the work of the Holy Spirit in and through the bounds of the visible Church.

***C: Praise and thanksgiving to the Lord (2)***

***Praise and thanksgiving, Praise and thanksgiving***

***Praise and thanksgiving to the Lord***

**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 24:13-27**

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**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And His righteousness;  
And all these things shall be added unto you.  
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
Seek, and you shall find.  
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.  
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.  
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

### **Offertory**

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness seems to hide His face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my Hope and Stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne!

Words: Edward Mote, circa 1834  
Music: William B. Bradbury, 1863

### **MESSAGE**

### **Closing Prayer**

P: We are truly grateful O Lord  
For another morning, another day  
For another hour, for another minute  
For another chance to love and serve you

C: Free us O Lord this day  
From fear of the future;  
From anxiety of the morrow;  
From bitterness toward anyone;  
From cowardice in the face of danger;  
From laziness in the face of work;  
From failure before opportunity  
And fill us with:  
Love that knows no barrier  
Courage that cannot be shaken;  
Faith strong enough for the darkness  
Strength sufficient for our task  
Loyalty to your Kingdom's goal;  
Wisdom to meet life's complexities;  
Power to lift people unto you.  
Be with us through this day  
And use us as You will:  
In Christ's name. Amen

### **Benediction**

May the Lord take our hands and make them skillful to serve;  
May he use our feet and make them swift to do His bidding;  
May the Lord bless our tongue and make it eloquent in testimony;  
May our Lord guide our thoughts in His everlasting grace;  
May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit continue to bless our ways so that we may be a blessing  
and rejoicing for others. Amen.

### **Doxology and Kiss of Peace**

This is the day, this is the day.  
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
For this is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day  
That the Lord has made.

We are the children, We are the children,  
Of the living God, of the living God.  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
And be glad in Him, and be glad in Him.  
For we are the children of the living God.  
We will rejoice and be glad in Him.  
We are the children, We are the children,

Of the living God.

.....  
(History behind the song- Now Thank we all our God)

Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran minister, was in Eilenburg, Saxony, during the Thirty Years' War. The walled city of Eilenburg saw a steady stream of refugees pour through its gates. The Swedish army surrounded the city, and famine and plague were rampant. Eight hundred homes were destroyed, and the people began to perish. There was a tremendous strain on the pastors who had to conduct dozens of funerals daily. Finally, the pastors, too, succumbed, and Rinkart was the only one left—doing 50 funerals a day including the funeral of his wife. When the Swedes demanded a huge ransom, Rinkart left the safety of the walls to plead for mercy. The Swedish commander, impressed by his faith and courage, lowered his demands. Soon afterward, the Thirty Years' War ended, and Rinkart wrote this hymn for a grand celebration service. It is a testament to his faith that, after such misery, he was able to write a hymn of abiding trust and gratitude toward God.)