

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Kingdomtide

27 September 2015

Quotes for Reflection

Evil is wrought by want of thought as well as want of heart. — Charles Dickens

Unless a man become the enemy of evil, he will not even become its slave but rather its champion. God Himself will not help us to ignore evil, but only to defy and defeat it. — G.K. Chesterton

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Introit—All Creatures Of Our God And King, Vs. 1

All crea-tures of our God and King lift up your voice and with us sing,
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold - en beam,
Thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam! O — praise Him! O — praise Him!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, c. 1225, Tr. William H. Draper, 1919; Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Cologne, 1623.

Call to Worship—Psalm 111:1-10

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

All: **Praise the Lord! We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Reader 1: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.
Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.
He has shown His people the power of His works.

Reader 2: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;
they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

All: **He has established His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!**

Pastor: His praise endures forever!

Hymn of Praise—Jesus Shall Reign

Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
To Him shall end - less prayer be made,
Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns;
Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring

does his suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
and prais - es throng to crown His head;
the pris - 'ner leaps to lose his chains,
pe - cu - liar hon - ors to our King;

His king - dom stretch from shore to shore,
His name, like sweet per - fume, shall rise
the wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest,
an - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,

till moons shall wax and wane no more.
with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
and all the sons of want are blest.
and Earth re - peat the loud a - men!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Psalm of Supplication—Answer, Father When I Call (Psalm 4)



An - swer, Fa - ther, when I call, O God of my right - eous - ness.
How long will you, sons of men, turn my ho - nor in - to shame?
Trem - ble now but then de - part, from all these be - set - ting sins.
Ma - ny say, "Who brings us good? Lift your light and bless the ground!"



You have giv - en me re - lief, When in deep dis - tress.
How long will you love your lies, speak - ing them in vain?
Me - di - tate with - in your heart, rest, be si - lent.
But more joy is in my heart, than when wine a - bounds.



An - swer, Fa - ther, and be gra - cious to the ser - vant in Your care;
Know the Lord has called the God - ly, made them ho - ly, one and all.
Of - fer right - eous sa - cri - fi - ces. Bring your faith un - to the Judge.
So in per - fect peace now rest - ing, I will both lie down and sleep.



show Your mer - cy in my trou - ble, O Lord, hear my prayer;
Know the Lord will sure - ly hear me when to Him I call;
Lay your si - lent hearts be - fore Him. Place in Him your trust;
You a - lone, O Lord Pro - tec - tor, my soul safe - ly keep;



O Lord, hear my prayer.
when to Him I call.
Place in Him your trust.
my soul safe - ly keep.

Text & Music: Nathan C. George, 2012.

Scripture Reading—Matthew 23:12; 23-24; 36

Jesus said, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the Law: justice and mercy and humble faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting all the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! Truly, I say to you, great woe will come upon this generation."

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Repentance—Great King Of Nations



Great King of na - tions, hear our prayer, while at Your feet we fall,
Our fath - ers' sins were man - i - fold, and ours no less we own,
With one in - tent we meek - ly bow be - neath Your chasten - ing hand,



And hum - bly with un - i - ted cry to You for mer - cy call;
Yet won - drous - ly from age to age Your good - ness has been shown;
And, pour - ing forth con - fess - ion meet, mourn with our mourn - ing land;



The guilt is ours, but grace is Yours O turn us not a - way;
When dan - gers, like a storm - y sea, be - set our coun - try round,
With pity - ing eye be - hold our need, as thus we lift our prayer;



But hear us from Your loft - y throne, and help us when we pray.
To You we looked, to You we cried, and help in You was found.
Cor - rect in sove - reign love, O Lord: the gen - er - a - tions spare.

Text: John H. Gurney, 1838; Mod 2009; Music: Based on a Traditional Irish Melody, Gregory Wilbur & Jeremiah Small, 2008.

The Reading of the Word—Malachi 1:6-14

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My fear? says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’ 7 By offering polluted food upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted You?’ By saying that the Lord's table may be despised. 8 When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the Lord of hosts. 9 And now entreat the favor of God, that He may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will He show favor to any of you? says the Lord of hosts. 10 Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on My altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the Lord of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. 11 For from the rising of the sun to its setting My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to My name, and a pure offering. For My name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. 12 But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. 13 But you say, ‘What a weariness this is,’ and you snort at it, says the Lord of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the Lord. 14 Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and My name will be feared among the nations.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response—How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds, Vs. 5

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Jes - us! My shep - herd, bro - ther, friend, my Proph - et, Priest and King, My Lord, my life, my way, my end, ac - cept the praise I bring."

Music: Text: John Newton, 1774; Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836.

Sermon—*The Profaning of the Table*

—Pastor, George Grant

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—Nehemiah 1:5-11

Pastor: O Lord God of Heaven, You keep covenant with those who love You and keep Your commandments. Let Your ears be attentive and Your eyes open to the prayer of Your servants.

All: **We confess that we have sinned and acted corruptly.
We have not kept Your commandments, Your statutes, and Your laws.**

Pastor: We remember the words You spoke to Moses that if we were unfaithful, You would scatter us among the peoples.

All: **But Lord, remember Your promise that if we return to You and keep Your commandments, You will gather us again and dwell among us.**

Pastor: We are Your servants and Your people whom You have redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.

All: **Lord, be attentive to the prayer of Your servants who fear Your name.
Grant us mercy and give us success today.**

Assurance of Pardon—Hebrews 10:19-25; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.**

Pastor: He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Sung Response—Not All The Blood Of Beasts, Vs. 2

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "But Christ, the Heav'n-ly Lamb, takes all our sins a-way; A sac-ri-fice of no-bler name and rich-er blood than they." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1709, Alt. 1961; Music: SOUTHWELL, William Damon, 1579.

HEAVENLY GIFT—EUCCHARISTO

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You,
Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God,
and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company
of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

WOMEN

MEN

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, -
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est.
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho san-na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho
high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est. A - men.
san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est. A - men.

Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: FRANKLIN SANCTUS, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

Having confessed our sins and made a good profession of faith, God's Table is open to all those "faithfully-fenced" members of the covenant community. Please come forward to partake of this means of grace. You may take the bread and dip it either in the cup of wine or grape juice.

Psalm of Supplication—Gently, Gently Lay Your Rod (Psalm 6)

Gent - ly, Gent - ly lay Your rod on my sin - ful heart, O God;
My soul is in great dis - tress. Send, O send Your pro - mised rest;
Who with - in the si - lent grave will re - call or give You praise?
So de - part from me, a - way! Men of e - vil, be a - shamed!

stay Your wrath, in merc - y, stay, or I sink be - fore its sway.
Lord I cry how long, how long? My great need has been my song.
Lord, my trem - bling soul now give words of grace and I will live.
For the Lord has heard my cry, as my prayer as - cends on high.

Heal me, for my flesh is weak; heal me, for Your grace I seek.
Look, O Lord, with gra - cious eye, turn and take my guilt - y life;
I am wear - y from the years of the dark - ness filled with tears.
Lo! He comes! He heeds my plea. Lo! He comes! The sha - dows flee!

This my on - ly plea I make, heal me for Your merc - y's sake.
by Your grace from Heav'n a - bove, save me in Your stead - fast love.
Oh, my sight, be - cause of grief, wastes a - way and now is weak.
Glo - ry round me dawns once more; rise my spir - it and a - dore!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1834, Alt. Nathan C. George, 2012; Music: Nathan C. George, 2012.

Hymn of Thanksgiving—When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the Prince of glo - ry died,
For - bid it, Lord that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God:
See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sor - row and love flow min - gled down:
Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a pres - ent far to small;

my rich - est gain I count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
all the vain things that charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
did e'er such love and sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown.
love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1709; Music: HAMBURG, Gregorian Chant, arr. Lowell Mason, 1824.

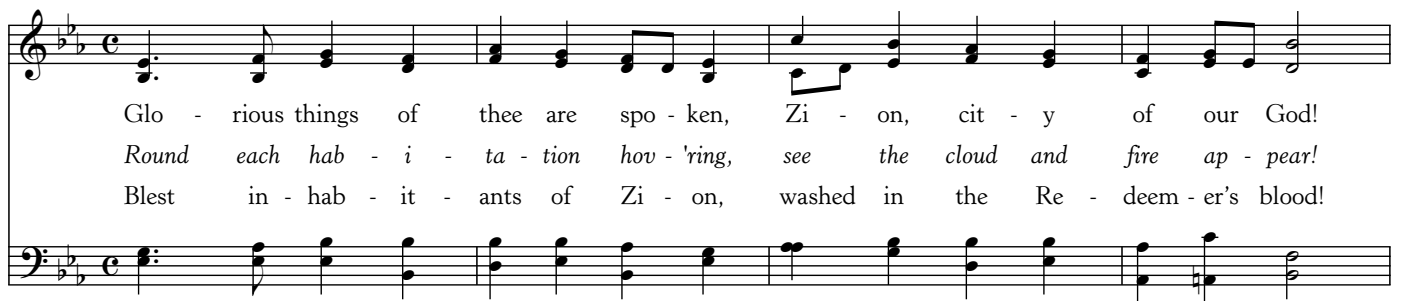
GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Vision—Acceptable Sacrifices

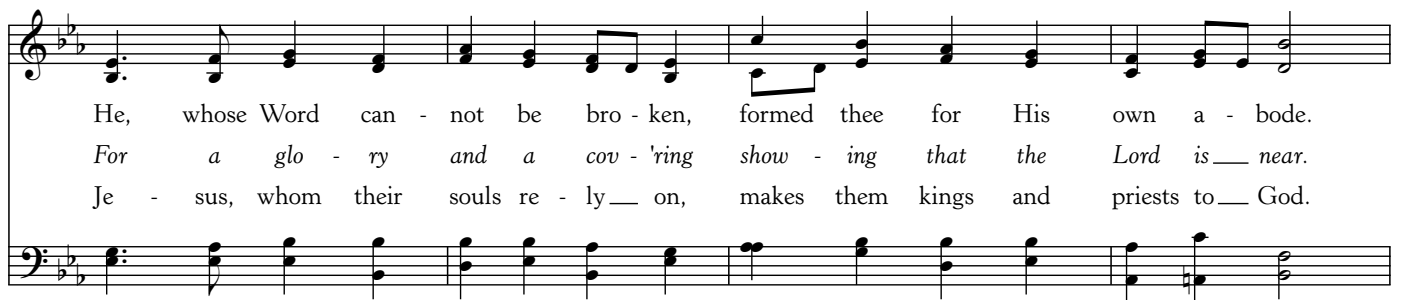
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

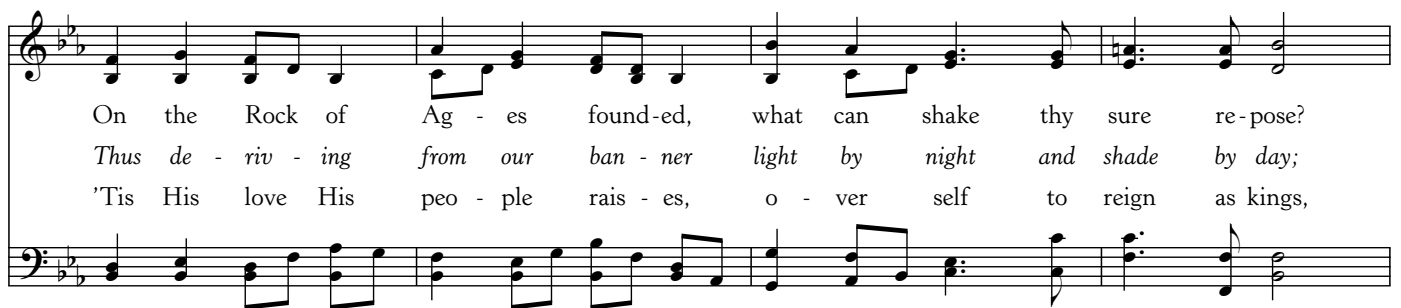
Hymn of Praise—Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken



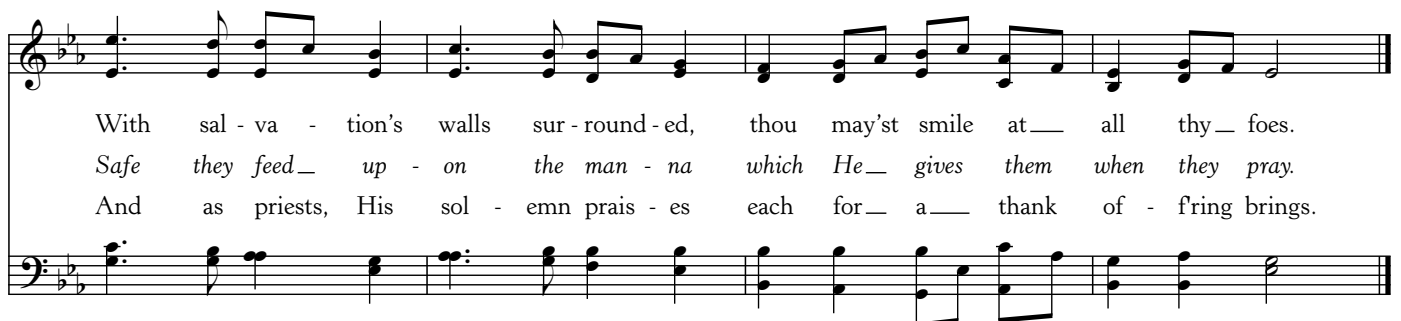
Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God!
Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear!
Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re - deem - er's blood!



He, whose Word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for His own a - bode.
For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring show - ing that the Lord is near.
Je - sus, whom their souls re - ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.



On the Rock of Ag - es found-ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
Thus de - riv - ing from our ban - ner light by night and shade by day;
'Tis His love His peo - ple rais - es, o - ver self to reign as kings,



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
Safe they feed up - on the man - na which He gives them when they pray.
And as priests, His sol - emn prais - es each for a thank of - fering brings.

Text: John Newton, 1789; Music: AUSTRIA, Joseph Haydn, 1779.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Philippians 1:6

He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Go forth in His hope. Amen.

Sung Response—Glory Be to God the Father, Vs. 2



Glo-ry be to Him who loved us, washed us from each spot and stain!



Glo-ry be to Him who bought us, made us kings with Him to reign!



Glo-ry, glo - ry, glo-ry, glo - ry, to the Lamb that once was slain!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1868; Music: Gregory D. Wilbur, 2011.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

My children naturally reach for the best looking cookie on the plate or the largest brownie. I have to admit, if there is a corner piece or a slice of pie with a bit more crust, I still notice with grown-up subtlety. The stain of selfishness pervades even the simplest things! Today, the passages we read as well as the songs we sing should cut us to the heart, for rooted deep in us is the temptation toward self-worship and idolatry. Nevertheless, the prose, prayers, and poems will remind us that we bring a sacrifice of praise to our shepherd, brother, friend, prophet, priest, and King. We come into the presence of the Lamb who takes away the stain of sin. *Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb that once was slain!*

— Nathan

For Daily Devotion:

Key Words: Son, Father, Despise, Gracious, Polluted, Weariness, Blemished
Keystone Verse: I am a great King, says the Lord of Hosts, and My name will be feared among the nations. (Malachi 1:14)



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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version.