

Praise the Father, the King of Heaven

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-2; 13-19

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, praise his holy name!
Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Praise my soul the King of Heaven, to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia, glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us, well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia, widely as his mercy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
But while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the High Eternal One

Angels, help us to adore him, you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise with us the God of grace

Prayer of Invocation

We ask God's presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.

Confess Your Sin to the Father Who Loves You

Call to Confession

Ephesians 5:1; 1 Peter 1:14-17

Be imitators of God, as beloved children. Do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear through the time of your exile. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal, Wise, and Loving Father,

We confess today our inflated sense of our own self-importance. We often despise or ignore those around us who we consider weak or uninteresting, or who cannot help us advance our own goals. While relying upon your sustaining hand, we are negligent or half-hearted in the care and protection of those who are dependent upon us. Forgive us for treating the children with which you bless our families and our church as nuisances or distractions. Forgive us for hindering their approach to Jesus by our sins against them and our misrepresentation of you in our lovelessness.

Lord Jesus, thank you for welcoming weak and vulnerable children. You have, and continue to, over-rule the skewed priorities of even your own disciples, to receive and bless those who are unable to give you anything in return. Though you are the glorious Son of God, you became a child yourself, and even as an adult lived humbly among us, not flaunting your glory or lording your status over others. Thank you for enduring on the cross the exclusion from your Father's presence that our pride deserved, and for covering our arrogant hearts in your perfect humility.

Holy Spirit, help us to see ourselves truly, as messy, foolish and ungrateful orphans who have no claim upon the affection of our Creator. Reveal to us the extravagant nature of his adopting love that has drawn us into the family of the Father. Help us to have the mind of Christ who humbled himself for us. Form within us love like our Father's to welcome in Christ's name other weak and vulnerable sinners like ourselves.

We ask in the name of Jesus, your Son and our King, amen.

All I Have is Christ

I once was lost in darkest night yet thought I knew the way.
The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave.
I had no hope that you would own a rebel to your will;
And if you had not loved me first I would refuse you still.

But as I ran my hell-bound race indifferent to the cost,
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross.
And I beheld God's love displayed you suffered in my place;
You bore the wrath reserved for me now all I know is grace.
Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.

Now, Lord, I would be yours alone and live so all might see,
The strength to follow your commands could never come from me.
Oh Father, use my ransomed life in any way you choose;
And let my song forever be my only boast is you.

Assurance of Pardon 1 Peter 1:13b; Galatians 4:4-7; 1 John 3:1

Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

Blessed are the Sons of God

Blessed are the sons of God,
They are bought with Christ's own blood;
They are ransomed from the grave,
Life eternal they shall have:
With them numbered may we be, here and in eternity.

They are justified by grace,
They enjoy the Savior's peace;
All their sins are washed away,
They shall stand in God's great day: *Refrain*

They are lights upon the earth,
Children of a heav'nly birth;
One with God, with Jesus one,
Glory is in them begun: *Refrain*

Pastoral Prayer

Children may be excused to Nursery.

The Father Tenderly Instructs His Children

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:13-16

¹³And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

¹⁶And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Sermon

"Jesus and Children"

Rev. Matt Harmon

We will receive our gifts and offerings for the Lord's work during this song.

Children of the Heavenly Father

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish;
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

More secure is no one ever than the loved ones of the Savior;
Not yon star on high abiding, nor the bird in home-nest hiding.

Come to the Father's Banquet as His Child

The Lord's Supper

All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The cups with lighter liquid contain grape juice, the darker liquid is wine. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One, bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice, call out among the scoffers.
It was his love that held him there until it was accomplished,
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that "it is finished."

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no power, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Wonderful merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men,
Oh you rescue the souls of men.

*You are the One that we praise, you are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
Oh our hearts always hunger for.*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace,
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way,
Oh we hopelessly lost the way. *Chorus*

Almighty infinite Father, faithfully loving your own,
Here in our weakness you find us, falling before your throne,
Oh we're falling before your throne. *Chorus*

Jesus, My Only Hope

I come into your presence with nothing in my hands;
I only bring thanksgiving for Jesus, God, and Man.
I cast myself on mercy, I cast myself on love;
I trust your gracious promise to wash me with your blood.

I will not fear your judgment, for me no wrath I dread;
For it was spent on Jesus, poured out upon his head.
When Satan's accusations make my poor heart afraid,
I hear my King declaring "Father, that debt is paid!"

*Jesus my only hope, my only plea,
My righteousness, my Great High Priest,
Who intercedes for me before the throne: Jesus, I trust in you alone.*

Though I am poor and naked, your prodigal come home;
You place your robe upon me, your holiness alone.
Though I be dry and barren by grace this love springs forth:
Love for you and your Kingdom, joy in your glory, Lord.

Benediction

The lyrics of the songs are used by permission. CCLI License #3008560
All I Have is Christ: words & music Jordan Kauflin © 2008 Sovereign Grace Music.
Wonderful Merciful Savior: words & music Dawn Rogers & Eric Wyse © 1989 Word Music.
Jesus My Only Hope: words & music Mark Altrogge © 2003 Sovereign Grace Music.

Morning Worship

Sunday, August 3rd, 2014

By nature we are strangers, yes, enemies to God; but we are reconciled and become his children, by faith in Christ Jesus. We can have no true knowledge of God [except] in and through the Son of his love. When his Holy Spirit enables us to receive the record which he has given of his Son, we are delivered and secured from condemnation; we are accepted in the Beloved; we are united to him in whom all the fullness of the Godhead substantially dwells, and all the riches of divine wisdom, power, and love, are treasured up.

- John Newton

God allowed His future and present wrath against me to be completely propitiated by Jesus, who bore it upon Himself while on the cross. Consequently, God now has only love, compassion, and deepest affection for me, and this love is without any admixture of wrath whatsoever.

- Milton Vincent