



City Church
PHILADELPHIA



Sunday August 23, 2020

Praying the Psalms in Christ
“I Will Give Thanks”

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today for worship. City Church and Liberti Center City are partnering to offer this worship service and other online points of gathering during this season of physical distancing.

Our worship is “liturgical.” The Greek word “leitourgia” means a public work, the work of the people. Liturgical worship begins with God’s call upon us, his meeting with us, speaking among us, and ministering to us. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity and then moving us outward into our world.

Please visit our websites, www.citychurchphilly.com and www.libertichurch.org, for more information about worship, help, and connecting during this season. We are glad you are joining us and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff

Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Jonathan Davis, Scott Jennings

Reflection

A capacity to be thankful in the midst of hard times requires acknowledging that we do not know the whole story, that we are living before it is complete, and that we are thankful for the presence of God and faithful persons in our lives. Gratitude is a crucial way that death and destruction do not have the final word, and cannot fully define us.

- Christine Pohl, *Living Into Community*

Church Calendar

ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
ORDINARY TIME

We observe a season of Ordinary Time from Pentecost until Advent, which we count as weeks following Pentecost. During this time we especially remember the lives and actions of Jesus' followers. We think about how the first Christians lived their lives, and how we should live ours today. This season of Ordinary Time takes up half the year and it doesn't offer big exciting festivals such as Christmas or Easter. As a result, as one Sunday follows another, this season can begin to feel, well, ordinary.

Prelude

Preparation

Let us take a moment in silence
to remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

All Amen.

Silence is kept.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

All And also with you.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

All Let us sing joyful songs of praise!

GOD SUMMONS US
AS HIS PEOPLE

*As we meet together
each week, we
recognize in the
preparation that God,
through his word and
Spirit, gathers us into
his presence and calls
us into his life and
mission.*

Opening Song

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

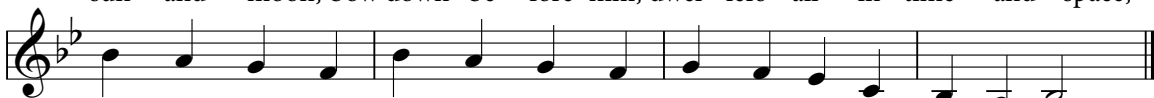
Henry Francis Lyte



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your trib - ute bring;
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers in dis tress;
3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
4. Frail as sum mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
5. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to face;



ran somed, healed, re stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, his praise should sing?
praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;
in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes;
but while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en dures un chang - ing on.
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwel - lers all in time and space,



Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glo - rious in his faith - ful ness.
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, wide - ly as his mer - cy goes.
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the High E - ter - nal One.
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.

The Opening of Worship

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;

All before the gods I sing your praise.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,

for they have heard the words of your mouth.

Though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,

but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

from Psalm 138

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley

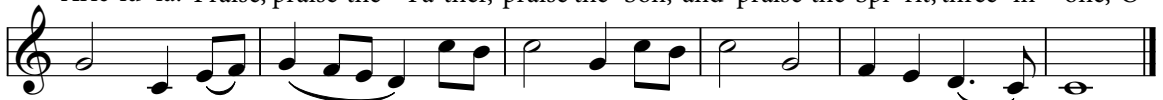


1. All ye who are of ten der heart, for- giv ing oth- ers take your part. Sing his prais- es,
2. Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and worship him with hum ble ness! O__ praise him,



Alle-lu ia! Ye, who long pain and sor- row bear, praise God and on him cast your care! O

Alle-lu ia! Praise, praise the Fa ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi- rit, three in one, O



praise him! O__ praise__him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

praise him! O__ praise__him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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Confession of Sin

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly
and acted ungratefully.
We enjoy the fruits of the harvest
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
We belong to a people who are full and satisfied
but ignore the cry of the hungry.
We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.
Father, in your mercy, forgive us and help us.

Silence is kept.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May God our Father forgive you your sins
and bring you to the fellowship of his table
with his saints forever.

All Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

GOD SANCTIFIES US TO HIMSELF

Throughout Scripture, when people find themselves in God's presence, they sense how far short they fall and become aware of their own shame and brokenness. In the same way, we make a confession of sin, both as a community and also silently as individuals. In this, we remember that God is always ready, by his mercy and grace, to forgive us.

Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving

Give to God Your Simple Praise

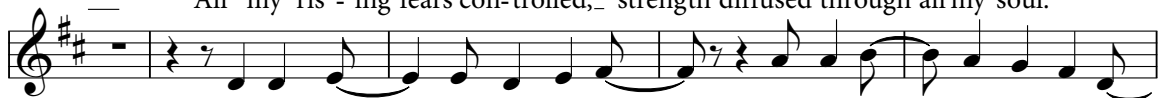
Isaac Watts, The New Ancients



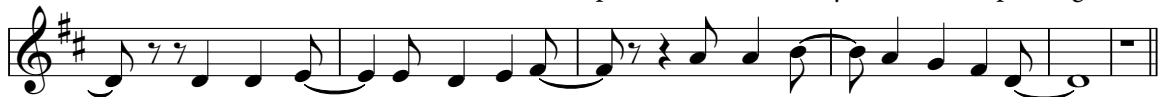
1. Give to God your simple praise, love and truth are all his ways.
2. God, I cried when troubles rose, heard me and subdued my foes.



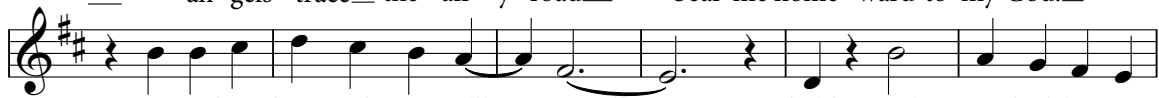
— Grace and joy to God be-long; sing his mercies in your song.
— All my rising fears controlled, strength diffused through all my soul.



O my pow'rs of heart and tongue, praise my maker in my song.
As I live, I'll trust his pow'r in my last departing hour,



— An-gels, hear the notes I raise: prove the song and join the praise.
— an-gels trace the air-y road bear me home-ward to my God.



A-mid a thousand snares I'll stand, held and guarded by your



per-fect hand. Your word my faint-ing soul re-vives, keeps my



dy-ing faith a-live, keeps my dy-ing faith a-live.

In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful

J. Berthier



In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -



joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your



voic - es the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

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The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Psalm 138

¹I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

²I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

³On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

⁴All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

⁶For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

⁸The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

GOD SPEAKS TO US
IN HIS WORD

In the public reading of the word of God and its exposition in the sermon, God shares the story of his saving mission in Jesus, encouraging us to join in that mission and orienting us again to his priorities.

Gospel reading: Matthew 6:22-24

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

²²"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; ²³but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

"I Will Give Thanks" – Rev. Chris Currie

Offering and Presentation of Gifts

If you'd like to contribute to the work of either of our churches, you can do so at the addresses below or text any amount to the number 84321.

citychurchphilly.com/give or libertichurch.org/give

Creed

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

Prayer is offered.

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly as our Savior has 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 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 and ever.
Amen.

Communion

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

*Having offered
ourselves up in faith
through the creed,
affirming the power
of God's redemption,
we lift up the
church, our world,
and other needs to
God in prayer for
his provision and
healing.*

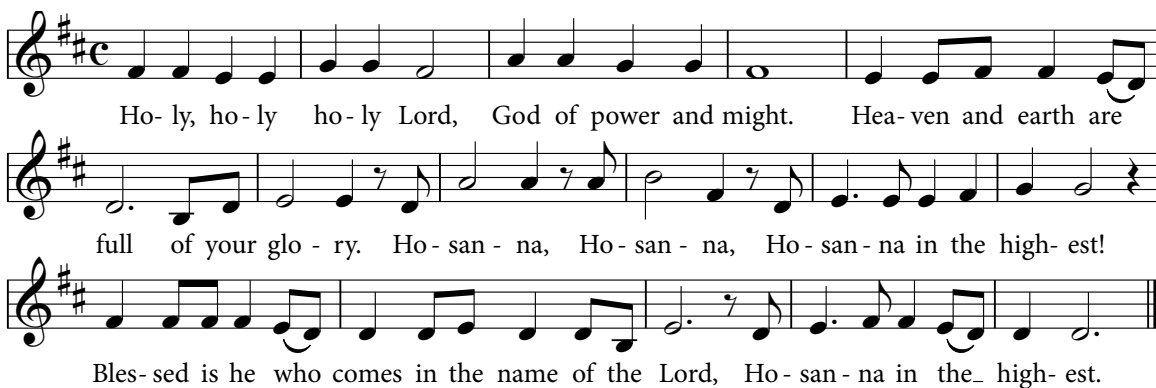
**GOD STRENGTHENS US
AT HIS TABLE**

*Communion, also
called the Lord's
Supper, is the family
meal of Christians.
We invite all baptized
followers of Jesus
Christ to participate.
If you are not a
follower of Jesus or
are not prepared to
share in the meal,
we encourage you
to spend this time
in prayer ("Prayers
for Reflection" are
included below).
We hope this time
is helpful to you as
you consider your
relationship with
Jesus Christ and with
his people, the church.*

The Eucharistic Prayer

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,
for Christ has risen from the tomb
and scattered the darkness of death
with light that will not fade.
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.
And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you and singing:

Sanctus



Ho- ly, ho- ly ho- ly Lord, God of power and might. Hea- ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high- est!
Bles- sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the_ high- est.

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The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The minister speaks the Words of Institution.

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Prayer after Communion

All God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us,
by this meal, remind us of your goodness
and increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing and Sending

What the Lord Has Done in Me

Reuben Morgan

1. Let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," let the
2. In-to the ri - ver I will wade; there my sins are washed a - way. From the
3. I will rise from wa-ters deep in-to the sa - ving arms of God. I will
blind say, "I can see; it's what the Lord has done in me."
hea - vens mer - cies stream of the Sa - vior's love for me.
sing sal - va - tion songs: Je - sus Christ has set me free.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na to the Lamb that was slain. Ho -
-san - na, ho - san - na, Je - sus died and rose a - gain.

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Benediction

May Christ, who has nourished us with himself,
the living bread,
make you one in praise and love
and raise you up at the last day;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Mark Allen: winds

Jon Covert: bass

Sarah Long: voice

Mike Szekely: drums

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