

GATHERING

Prelude Song: The Rhythm of Life

Lloyd Larson

Welcome & Eastertide Greeting

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Hallelujah! He is risen indeed!

PRAISING

Come, People of the Risen King

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Come peo - ple of the Ris - en King, who de -
Come those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those
Come young and old from ev - 'ry land, all you
light to bring Him praise; come all, and tune your
weep - ing through the night; come those who tell of
peo - ple of the faith; come those with full or
hearts to sing to the Morn - ing Star of grace. From the
bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the fight. For His
emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of His grace. O - ver
shift - ing shad - ows of the earth, we will lift our eyes to
per - fect love will nev - er change, and His mer - cies nev - er
all the world, His peo - ple sing; shore to shore we hear them
Him, where stead - y arms of mer - cy reach, to
cease, but fol - low us through all our days, with the
call the truth that cries through ev - 'ry age, "Our
gath - er chil - dren in.
cer - tain hope of peace. Re - joice, re - joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re -
God is all in all."
joice! One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ re - joice!

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend**

My Soul Will Wait (Psalm 62)

When the enemy surrounds, and my heart grows faint within,
When the darkness overwhelms, and my fears are pressing in,
I will trust in You, O Lord; in the silence I will wait. I will stand upon Your Word.

You're my stronghold and my shield in the midst of every threat.
Though the wicked never yield, they will vanish like a breath.
Yes, I know the outcome's sure; Satan's evil plans will fail. In Your power I'm secure.

This is love I can't explain, this is mercy unreserved.
Through Your sacrifice so great, I have peace that's undeserved.
For the battle has been won, and I fear no shame or loss; now the sting of death is gone.

Prayer of Adoration

All: Praise be to the God who provides what we need.

All: Praise be to the God who provides what we need.

All: Praise be to the God who provides what we need.

All: Praise be to the God who provides what we need.

BELONGING

Kids on the Steps

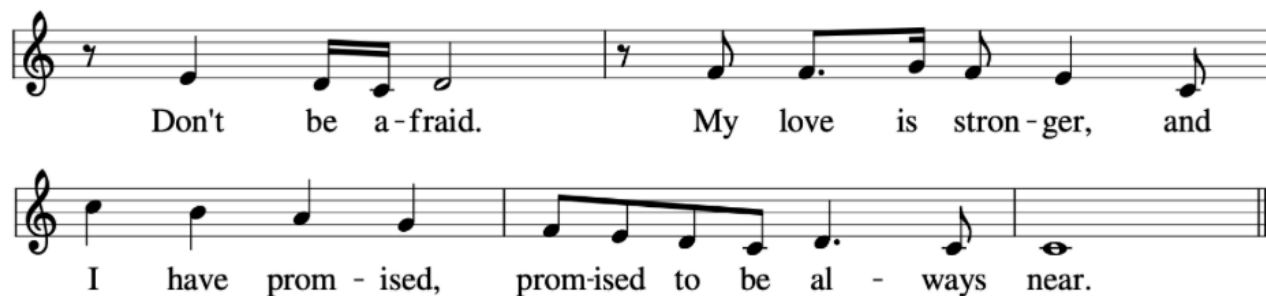
Confession of Sin

Friends, we are a people who truly want to live as we should, yet we fall short. Let us confess our sin together.

Blessed God who loves us, we are grateful for all you have provided and for the high calling of living in your kingdom. But we come to you deeply aware that we are a people of unclean lips. Day by day we fail to be all we should be. We ask your forgiveness, including for the times we have failed to forgive others. Forgive us our petty grievances. Forgive us for the times we fail to see those in our community who need a helping hand, and for failing to respond generously. Hear these prayers, Oh Lord, and for those we offer in our hearts.

Confession Song: Don't Be Afraid





John L. Bell***

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Hear the promise of God: As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us, Praise be to God!

STEWARDED

Invitation to Offering

Offering Song: O God, Beyond All Praising (Prelude on Thaxted)

Arr. Michael Helman

FORMING

Sermon: Luke 11:1-4

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." 2 So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

3 *Give us each day our daily bread.*

4 *And forgive us our sins,*

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial." (NRSV)

We continue today with our series "Teach us to Pray" from the gospel of Luke where Jesus' disciples see him praying and ask him to teach them how to pray. How often, in our doubt and uncertainty, do we wish we could be one of those disciples and learn directly from Him, how to offer prayers to God.

But of course, we can do exactly that whenever we want. At least we can read the words He said to them. All we have to do is read from Luke 11:1-4.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say

"Father,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. Let us pray.

Jesus makes it seem so easy and simple. Why then do we find so many books out there telling us how to pray? I must be honest. I have one of those books. It's by Tim Keller and it's called Prayer. I also have another book by Keller, called Preaching. I mean, it's one thing when all you have to do is pray; it's a little bit harder when you have to preach about praying.

Keller walks us through so much. Did you know, for example, that Martin Luther devoted three hours a day to prayer? But of course this is not a book of trivia. Keller says that prayer is a duty and a discipline but is also a conversation with God. Prayer requires us to accept our dependence on God, yet also leads us to restful trust and confident hope in Him.

But one statement from Keller really struck me - it seems to put things in perspective and really meshes with what Jesus has told his disciples. "Prayer is a balanced fourfold integration of praise, petition, thanks, and confession."

Praise. Petition or asking for help. Thanks. Confession.

This is what we do in the Lord's Prayer and that's great, but we have to be careful as we go through prayer. Nervousness can make us a bit too rigid in our prayer as if we have a checklist we're using. I think pastor Dan told us a couple weeks ago that this prayer, the Lord's Prayer, doesn't have to be prayed using precisely the same words. He used the example of Gene Peterson's rendering of this scripture passage in his paraphrase translation that we all know as The Message.

But what if we can't find words. Sometimes we struggle to pray at all. We choke up and can't say anything. When I came back to the church 9 years ago, I couldn't pray. I mean I could join in when we all said the Lord's Prayer, but when I was alone I just choked up and I don't mean choked up with emotion. I was unable to say or even feel anything.

How did I learn to pray? I watched a teacher - it was Jerry Sittser many years ago - standing in front of a classroom, while he prayed Psalm 139 aloud. And it was the most amazing thing I'd ever seen. This is one of the longer Psalms, but it wasn't the fact that he recited it perfectly from memory. It was the way he spoke, in the most natural voice, the most calm and natural manner. Once I heard him, within a few days I was free to pray to God as if He was in the room with me, as if I could have a natural conversation with Him. And of course He was in the room with me. He still is.

So Tim Keller offers us a way to organize our prayers. Remember the four parts – praise, petition or asking for help, thanks, and confession. He also offers us a way to orient ourselves as we pray. He tells us there are three orientations in prayer - upward, inward, and outward. We see the upward orientation in the first two lines of our scripture passage. "Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come." Pastor Dan and Natalie Mauer have led us through these first two parts of Jesus' prayer in the last few weeks. Now we move on.

We see the outward orientation in the next line "Give us each day our daily bread." Here we are asking for help from God, and I love this line. Now at first it seems like a "Gimme" line. You know, gimme this, gimme that. Is God going to cave in and give us all we want? Well of course not. We all probably remember times when we ask God for something, and later realize that our request was inappropriate. We asked for the wrong thing, or too much. Maybe we were just being greedy.

Once again, back to that great line from our passage, "Give us each day our daily bread." This is about bread, not chocolate cake topped with ice cream. We are to pray for the essentials that we need each day, not all those luxury goods we'd like to have. Jesus tells us to actually ask him for what we need. This is the God that the same author, Tim Keller, has written about in his book, Prodigal God, that some of us have read in our Roots groups, the God that lavishes love and care on his children. He gives us what we need.

Remember once again, our three ways of orienting ourselves in prayer – upward, outward, and inward. We've discussed upward and outward prayer. But when we pray, "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us," we are turning our eyes inward on ourselves, looking into our heart and realizing that when it becomes bent and misguided, we sin. Oh, how often we stray, often in small ways, but sometimes in the larger and more important aspects of life.

And so we ask God for His forgiveness, for His grace. But we are not alone in this world. We live in relationship with others – our scripture again - "for we also forgive everyone who sins against us." It is here, that Jesus' prayer reminds me of the Ten Commandments. The first four of the commandments are about our relationship with God, but the last six are about our relationship to those with whom we live – we honor father and mother, we honor our spouse by not committing adultery, we do not steal, we do not bear false witness, we do not covet what our neighbor has, and finally we do not kill.

In the same way, when Jesus says to pray the words, "for we also forgive everyone who sins against us," he is telling us that when a person with whom we live in community sins against us, we must forgive them. We don't want to be the person who devoutly prays for God's forgiveness and grace when we do wrong, yet never extends such grace to those who have wronged us.

In our last line from today's scripture we again turn outward to ask God for help. "And lead us not into temptation." Well, temptation is just a normal part of life. One interpreter tells us that this plea for help asks God to rescue us from those tempting situations which without God's grace we would not be able to withstand. At times when we know that what we are about to do is wrong, when we feel the urge getting stronger, when our resistance is weakening, then we say to God, "Lord, lead me away to safety." When we do this we are confessing our weakness and praying for God's faithfulness.

John Calvin, writing 500 years ago, saw another temptation, not one that leads us to fall into the everyday sins, but a much bigger temptation. The temptation to believe on one hand that we don't need God, or on the other hand to cultivate resentment and hatred for God. One leads us to believe that our life is fine without faith, the other to live in deep bitterness at our own misfortune. One

voice says in smug indifference, "God can do nothing for me. I have all I need." The other voice calls out in anger, "God has never done anything for me. Why should I thank Him?"

Many people today have split off the true way, to either dismiss God as unimportant, or to rage and rail against God, and have stumbled into a life without belief, without faith.

But it seems that often, even those of us who do believe become, not indifferent, but let's say no longer awestruck by what we believe. There is a saying everyone knows – "Familiarity breeds contempt." I don't think it's always true, but it is true that "familiarity breeds complacency and indifference." And I think our familiarity with the Gospel message, with God's grace and generosity can easily lead us to take all this for granted. We've heard it all so many times, we know it all so well.

Imagine that we are all living thousands of years ago in the ancient near east, the land that gave birth to Judaism and Christianity, where the loving message of God was born. There were peoples living in that time and place, living under a much different religion, a religion that taught that the people were nothing but slaves whose sole purpose was to serve the Gods, Gods who luxuriated in the heavens above.

Imagine the shock of a belief like ours entering that world - that God will give us what we need for life, that our sins and wrongdoing will be forgiven, and that God will help us each to stay on the right path through life.

God, the God that we know reigns over all, the God that sent us His Son is generous beyond belief. So generous that we needn't be bashful when we talk to Him. Scholar James Edwards says that we are often tentative in our prayer requests. We say "Lord can you or might you or would you do X, Y, or Z." But Edwards, who knows his Greek very well, tells us that the Lord's Prayer in its original Greek tells us NOT to pray to God in polite timidity, but instead in bold confidence. That we are free to expect that God will fulfill His promise to us, to extend to us His grace, mercy, and love.

So with bold confidence, say with me
Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
GIVE me today my daily bread.
FORGIVE me my sins, for I also forgive everyone who sins against me.
And LEAD me not into temptation."
Amen

Response Song: How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed, for I am your God, and I will give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials, your pathway shall lie, my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply.
The flame shall not hurt you, I only design your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"
John Rippon**

Prayers of the People

Lord God, we pray for all who are alone or who live with others but feel they are facing life alone. Help us to reassure them that they are never truly alone, and to invite them into community.

We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones through tornados and other natural disasters, through accidents and illness and war. There's just so much, Lord. Thank you that you walk with us through it all.

We pray for our congregation: for those who lead us, that you give them energy, intelligence, imagination and love. For all who serve within the church and out in the community, that you give them strength and love, perseverance and good humor. We pray for those who belong to this congregation but cannot be with us in this place, that they know they are loved and valued.

We pray for the leaders of our nation, that they learn to put political differences aside and make collaborative decisions for the good of our nation.

We pray for the poor in all places. Help us do our part to ease their poverty by connecting the needy in our community with housing and jobs, dignity and hope.

Hear us as we each name in our minds those whose troubles are on our hearts.

Let us join together in the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us.

Our father, ..

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SENDING

Father, Let Your Kingdom Come

Refrain: Hallelu, hallelujah, Father, let your kingdom come!

Hallelu, hallelujah, Father, let your kingdom come! 2x

May the works of my hands bring You joy. 4x then *Refrain*

May the words from my mouth speak Your peace. 4x then *Refrain*

You make all things new. You make all things new.
In places we don't choose, You make all things new. *Refrain*

Ben Cooper, Latifah Alattas, Elizabeth Vice, Paul Zach,
Madison Cunningham, Orlando Palmer and Isaac Wardell**

Benediction

Leading in Worship This Morning:

Liturgist: Jane Bahls

Kids on the Steps: Austin Graef

Sermon: Ron Righter

Musicians: Steve Lympus, Joselyn Thomsen,

Austin Graef, Chris Caldwell, Madison Spencer, Bell Choir

Sound, Slide and Video Techs: Dan McCaffery,

Zane Reneau, and Sean Barry

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Facility Steward: Robert Miller

Bell Choir Director: Tomi Kent

Parish Associates: Rev. Janet Malone and Rev. Bob Schurr

Preaching Pastor, Blackfoot Church of the Potomac: Natalie Mauer