

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth
And sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 23

Congregational Prayer

My heavenly Father,
Grant me the favor of being led by You,
Under the directions of Your providence and Word.
Grant me Your blessings along with bitter things,
To brighten and quicken me,
Not to depress and make me lifeless;
Grant me, like Gideon of old, tokens of Your favor,
By removing things that discourage me.

Grant me support beneath the shadow
Of Your sympathy when I am tempted.
Accept my unceasing thanks
That I am not cast off from Your hand.
Do not allow my life to extend beyond my usefulness;
Cast me not under the feet of pride, injustice, riches,
Worldly greatness, or the selfish oppression of men;
Help me to wait patiently, silently upon You,
Not to be enraged or speak unadvisedly.

Let Your mercy follow me while I live,
And give me aid to resign myself to Your will.
To Your grace and the care of Your covenant
I commit myself, in sickness, and in health,
For Jesus has overcome the world,

Fulfilled the law, finished justifying righteousness,
And swallowed up death in victory,
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 130:3-4

*Hymn

"Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul"

Dear refuge of my weary soul,
On Thee, when sorrows rise,
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,
My fainting hope relies.
To Thee I tell each rising grief,
For Thou alone canst heal;
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief
For every pain I feel.

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail,
I fear to call Thee mine;
The springs of comfort seem to fail,
And all my hopes decline.
Yet, gracious God, where shall I flee?
Thou art my only trust;
And still my soul would cleave to Thee
Though prostrate in the dust.

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face,
And shall I seek in vain?
And can the ear of sov'reign grace
Be deaf when I complain?
No, still the ear of sov'reign grace
Attends the mourner's prayer;
O may I ever find access
To breathe my sorrows there.

Thy mercy seat is open still,
Here let my soul retreat;
With humble hope attend Thy will,
And wait beneath Thy feet.

Thy mercy seat is open still,
Here let my soul retreat;
With humble hope attend Thy will,
And wait beneath Thy feet.

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New Testament Reading

John 17:1-5

Message

“THE BELIEVER’S TWO COMPANIONS”

***Hymn**

“Never Cease to Praise”

May we run this race, may we keep the faith;
May our eyes be fixed on Jesus -
That we’ll not lose heart in our struggle with sin,
And through suffering know endurance.

May we arm ourselves with the mind of Christ
To rejoice in trials and be not surprised.
May our hearts be so consumed by You
That we never cease to praise.

May our company be the saints You’ve called.
May we all stand firm in one spirit –
That the gospel’s truth may resound on earth,
That all living things may hear it.

May the fruits of faith mark the path we trod
Through the life of Christ, to the glory of God.
May our hearts be so consumed by You
That we never cease to praise.

May the words we share be Your grace and peace,
May our tongues speak Your proclamations -
That the many parts of the body of Christ
Be affirmed in their right relation.

As we long and wait for the groom to come,
May we learn to love, and spur each other on.
May our hearts be so consumed by You
That we never cease to praise.

When that day arrives, and the race is won,
When our griefs give way to deliverance,
We will fully know, as we’re fully known.
All our groans will end as new songs begin,

And a multitude from every tribe and tongue
Wearing robes of white, will stand before Your throne
And our hearts will be so consumed by You
That we’ll never cease to praise!

May our hearts be so consumed by You
That we never cease to praise.

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***God Blesses His People**

2 Corinthians 13:14

“THE BELIEVER’S TWO COMPANIONS”

Psalm 23:5-6

Believer -- just remember who you are, and who God is. You can trust Him for exactly where you are at this moment! Rev 5:12. *Saints want to get as much of Christ as they can while on earth, so that they can get as much of Christ as they can when in heaven.*

I. WE AFFIRM THE GOOD HAND OF GOD THROUGH ALL OUR DAYS

A. David Lives in Two Worlds Simultaneously

Phil 3:20; Col 3:3

B. He Enjoys and Anticipates the Banqueting Table

Isa 25:6; 1 John 3:2; Rom 14:17

C. His Two Companions Are Goodness and Mercy

Ps 119:71. The believer can say, “Lord, You’ve been better to me than I’ve been to myself.” Zachary Burnham: his mom being held hostage was “the best thing that ever happened to him.”

II. WE SET OUR HOPE ON OUR ETERNAL HOME AND REWARD

A. The Believer Looks for Something Beyond this Life

Hebrew: “to length of days.” Not *olam*. Ps 27:4; cf. 26:8; 65:4; 84:4, 87:1. John 17:1-5. Glory in heaven is the flowering of grace begun on earth.

B. There are Rewards of Grace in Heaven

2 Cor 5:10; Matt 25:14-30; Luke 16:1-13; Rev 22:12-13; 2 Cor 9:6; Heb 12:14

Conclusion

Let us then be true and faithful
Trusting, serving everyday
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.

When we all get to heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus
We’ll sing and shout the victory!

Heavenly Rewards by Charles Hodge

...Although Protestants deny the merit of good works, and teach that salvation is entirely gratuitous, that the remission of sins, adoption into the family of God, and the gift of the Holy Spirit are granted to the believer, as well as admission into heaven, solely on the ground of the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ; they nevertheless teach that God does reward his people for their works. Having graciously promised for Christ’s sake to overlook the imperfection of their best services, they have the assurance founded on that promise that he who gives to a disciple even a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, shall in no wise lose his reward.

The Scriptures also teach that the happiness or blessedness of believers in a future life will be greater or less in proportion to their devotion to the service of Christ in this life. Those who love little, do little; and

those who do little, enjoy less. What a man sows that shall he also reap. As the rewards of heaven are given on the ground of the merits of Christ, and as He has a right to do what He will with his own, there would be no injustice were the thief saved on the cross as highly exalted as the Apostle Paul. But the general drift of Scripture is in favor of the doctrine that a man shall reap what he sows; that God will reward every one according to, although not on account of his works. (Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 3, pages 244-245)