

Worship in Song

In the darkness there's a light

Countdown and Welcome

Introduction

In today's reading we are encouraged to follow the examples of faith of the Old Testament characters all of whom died without receiving what God had promised and to run the race set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Worship in Song

O Church, arise, and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle-cry is Love,
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war, to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.

As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory.

Confession

God of mercy, we come to you this day as imperfect people. We have not always looked to Jesus as our example. We have failed to be your witnesses on earth and have neglected the needs of others. So we confess our sins to you:

Almighty God, we confess that too often we have taken the easy way of the world, rather than your way, and so have grieved your heart of love. We have been slow to admit that we are not our own, but belong to you: In your mercy forgive us and help us. We have been unwilling to see that we are bought with the price of Christ's blood: In your mercy forgive us and help us. We have been unprepared to live out our lives as your servants: In your mercy forgive us and help us. Raise us by the power of your love, and fill us anew with the joy of your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Hebrews 11.29 - 12.2 (*Church Bible page 1008*)

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Worship in Song

Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
Life up thine eyes, and seek his face,
Life with its path before thee lies;
Christ is the way, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy guide,
His boundless mercy will provide;
Lean, and thy trusting soul shall prove,
Christ is thy life, and Christ thy love.

Faint not, nor fear, his arm is near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear,
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

The Apostles' Creed

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

Special Prayer for Today

Surround us, O God, we pray, by so great a cloud of witnesses, rid us of the sin that clings to us, that we may run the race that lies before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who endured the cross, and now has taken his seat at your right hand. **Amen.**

Notices

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Offertory Prayer

Loving Lord, we offer you all that we are and do, that we may make a difference in our homes, in our communities, and in our world for your kingdom. Receive our sacrifices as a pledge to live our lives looking to Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross. On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in words of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We receive communion

Hymn during Communion

May the mind of Christ my saviour
Live in me from day to day,
By his love and power controlling, all I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph, only through his power.

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing, this is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus, as I onward go.

Hymn during Communion

In the darkness there's a light before me
And it drives away my fear
In the silence there's a voice that calls me
And it tells me you are near

In the chaos there's a hand that holds me
And will never let me go
Yes I know that you are always for me
For your word has told me so

I will follow you, I will walk by faith
You have brought me near
By your unrelenting grace
I will set my mind on the things above
You have won my heart
With your everlasting love

I was lost but then you came and found me
And in love you brought me home
I was dead in sin but then you raised me
I am saved by grace alone

Bridge

For no height no depth no life no death
No pow'r on earth can take us from your love
No height no depth no life no death
No pow'r on earth can take us from your love

Hymn during Communion

My soul will sing with all the strength I have in me
I will rejoice with every day he gives
I will recall the wonders he has shown to me
His power to heal his mercy to forgive
We join with angels to sing his praises
He does not treat us as our sins deserve

High as the heavens reach above the earth
Is your unfailing love, is your unfailing love
Far as the east is banished from the west
You took our sins from us
removed our sins from us
How wide how high is your unfailing love

Our King delights to show compassion to the weak
Their deepest needs he loves to satisfy
Throughout the earth
His justice and his mercy speak
And he will run to meet the victim's cry
From everlasting to everlasting
Our youth renewed with every step we take

Though we are dust a moment in eternity
As flowers bloom today and then are gone
He crowns our lives with beauty and with dignity
His patience smiles on all who turn to him
From generation to generation
We'll tell the story of his faithfulness

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, you feed us with the living bread from heaven; renew our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love. Teach us to hunger for Christ who is the true and living bread, and to live by every word that comes from your mouth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Worship in Song

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Blessing

Brothers and sisters, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses, each of whom lived a life of faith in God, let us lay aside every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. and let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus Christ, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Music as we leave

There is a hope that burns within my heart