

Worship in Song

Though the nations rage kingdoms rise and fall

Welcome

Video - *Stephen's martyrdom*

Worship in Song

Speak O Lord as we come to you
To receive the food of your holy word
Take your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience
Holy reverence true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on your promises
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us
Speak O Lord till your church is built
And the earth is filled with your glory

Confession

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Special Prayer for Today

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Acts 7.55-60 (*Church Bible page 916*)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

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.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

Offertory Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you emptied yourself, taking the form of a servant. Through your love, make us servants of one another. Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor. May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

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

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, 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

Worship in Song (OBS Soundtrack)

My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine;
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire.
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be.
A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread.
Be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Saviour, then in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul.

Worship in Song

May the peace of God our heavenly Father
And the grace of Christ the risen Son
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love

And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain
Christ eternal the King of kings

May this peace which passes understanding
And this grace which makes us what we are
And this fellowship of his communion
Make us one in spirit and in heart

Worship in Song

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand
And wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me come
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won

Beneath the cross of Jesus his family is my own
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams
Now one through grace alone
How could I now dishonour
The ones that you have loved
Beneath the cross of Jesus
See the children called by God

Beneath the cross of Jesus
The path before the crown
We follow in his footsteps
Where promised hope is found
How great the joy before us
To be his perfect bride
Beneath the cross of Jesus
We will gladly live our lives

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the
way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk
in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share
his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and
for ever. **Amen.**

Worship in Song

Though the nations rage kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains
That my God is the Ancient of Days

None above him none before him
All of time in his hands
For his throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory I will trust in his name
For my God is the Ancient of days

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul
He is here with me, I am not alone
O His love is sure and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Though I may not see what the future brings
I will watch and wait for the Saviour king
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

Blessing

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the
Lord make his face shine upon you and be
gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you
and give you peace; 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

May the peace of God our heavenly Father