

Worship in Song

In the darkness there's a light before me

Welcome

Worship in Song

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore you,
Hope of a life spent with you.

So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God:
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross.

Saying Sorry

**God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and
said and done, and are mindful of all that we have
failed to do. For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past, and help us to live each
day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you
pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for
amendment of life, and the grace and strength
of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer for Today

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested
your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we, who know you now by
faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Readings

Isaiah 60.1-6 (*Church Bible page 619*)

Matthew 2:1-12 (*Church Bible page 807*)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Worship in Song

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward beaming bright
So most gracious Lord may we
Evermore be led to thee

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat

As their precious gifts they laid
At thy manger roughly made
So may we with holy joy
Pure and free from sin's alloy
All our costliest treasures bring
Christ to thee our heavenly King

Holy Jesu every day
Keep us in the narrow way
And when earthly things are past
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide
Where no clouds thy glory hide

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light
Thou its light its joy its crown
Thou its sun which goes not down
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King

The Liturgy of Baptism

Testimonies of Candidates

Introduction

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

Presentation of Candidates

Soran and Adib, do you wish to be baptized?
I do.

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Baptismal Promises

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour? **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord? **I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

Soran and Adib, Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We proclaim our Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

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.

Baptism

Soran and Adib, is this your faith? **This is my faith.**

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen.**

Living as a baptised Christian

Soran and Adib, those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God. Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: Soran and Adib, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

Giving of a Lighted Candle

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. Soran and Adib, you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Worship in Song

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

For no height no depth no life no death
No power on earth can take us from your love
No height no depth no life no death
No power on earth can take us from your love

Prayers

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

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

Gracious God, accept the gifts that we bring, and with them our lives, to be used in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and 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.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.

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 for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

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

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 - *during communion*

Beneath the cross of Jesus

You my God have saved my soul

Worship in Song

We won't fear the battle, we won't fear the night
We will walk the valley with you by our side
You will go before us, you will lead the way
We have found a refuge only you can save

Sing with joy now our God is for us
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress
Raise your voice now no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us

Even when I stumble, even when I fall
Even when I turn back still your love is sure
You will not abandon, you will not forsake
You will cheer me onward with never ending grace

Neither height nor depth can separate us
Hell and death will not defeat us
He who gave his Son to free us
Holds me in his love

Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and 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.