

## CALL TO WORSHIP

In Ezekiel 3:23 we read, “And the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory I had seen by the Kebar river, and I fell face down.” We will be looking at the conversion of Saul

## OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, as we celebrate your salvation in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and in the power of the Spirit, set us free to worship you in Spirit and in truth. Open our ears to your Word and our hearts to your service; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## OPENING SONG

**Welcomed in to the courts of the king  
I've been ushered into your presence  
Lord, I stand on your merciful ground  
Yet with every step tread with reverence**

**And I'll fall face down as your glory shines  
around  
Yes, I'll fall face down as your glory shines  
around**

**Who is there in the heavens like you  
And upon the earth who's your equal  
You are far above, you're the highest of  
heights  
I am bowing down to exalt you**

**And I'll fall face down as your glory shines  
around  
Yes, I'll fall face down as your glory shines  
around  
So let your glory shine around  
Let your glory shine around  
King of glory here be found  
King of glory (repeat)**

## CONFESSION

today, who fell to the ground when a bright light from heaven flashed around him. He heard the Lord speak to him, let's pray we hear the Lord speaking to us today.

Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends: we confess that we ignore your invitation.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go and bear fruit: we confess that we are not as fruitful as we'd like to be because of the weeds of sin in our lives.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses: we confess that all too often we are reluctant to go.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

This is the Lord's gracious word to you. You are forgiven. Now follow as Jesus leads you by his Spirit. **Amen.**

## BIBLE READING: ACTS 9:1-9

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground

and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

<sup>5</sup> 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked.

'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. <sup>6</sup> 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'

<sup>7</sup> The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything...

...<sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'  
<sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptised, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

Making a U-turn (Paul's Conversion)

## SONG

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
All this world reveres, and wars to own,  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing You, Jesus, Knowing You,  
there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best,  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love You, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,  
To be found in You and known as Yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not earn,  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness.

Oh, to know the power of Your risen life,  
And to know You in Your sufferings.  
To become like You in Your death, my Lord,  
So with You to live and never die.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Father, your Son Jesus called people to leave the past behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the cross. We pray for all new followers of Jesus.

Father, your Son told his disciples not to be afraid, and at Easter breathed on them his gift of peace. We pray for the world at this time of unrest and disease; give it that peace and healing for which it longs.

Father, your Son sent the Spirit and at Pentecost the disciples went out and preached the gospel and healed the sick. We pray for all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and pray you would renew among your people the gifts of healing.

Father, your Son formed around him a company who were no longer servants but friends, and he called all those who obeyed him his brother and sister and mother. We pray for our families and our friends and upon the communities in which we share.

Father, your Son promised to those who followed him that they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and would share the banquet of the kingdom. We pray for those who have walked with Christ in this life and now have passed through death into your eternal presence.

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord. **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.**

### CLOSING SONG

**Holy Spirit, living breath of God,  
Breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
To renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your word to come alive in me,  
Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.**

**Holy Spirit, come abide within,  
May Your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude:  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,**

**Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my strivings into works of grace;  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.**

**Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
Giving life to all that God has made,  
Show Your power once again on earth,  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
May the fragrance of our prayers arise;  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
That in unity the face of Christ  
May be clear for all the world to see.**

### CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Lord Jesus Christ, just as you called Paul to your service and to preach the good news to the world, strengthen us to witness to your grace and love in the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and all whom you love, this day and for evermore. **Amen.**

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