

SONG BEFORE

GREAT IS THE LORD AND MOST WORTHY OF PRAISE,

The city of our God, the holy place,
The joy of the whole earth.
Great is the Lord in whom we have the
victory. He aids us against the enemy,
We bow down on our knees.

*And Lord, we want to lift Your name
on high,
And Lord, we want to thank You,
For the works You've done in our lives;
And Lord, we trust in Your unfailing
love,
For You alone are God eternal,
Throughout earth and heaven above.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of
praise, in the city of our God, his holy
mountain. It is beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth (Ps. 48:1-2).

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, infinite and eternal in
wisdom, power and love; we praise you
for all that you are, and for all that you
do for the world. You have shown us
your truth and your love in our Saviour
Jesus Christ. Help us by your Spirit to
worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION

I confess to God Almighty and in the
presence of all God's people that I have
sinned in thought, word and deed, and I
pray God Almighty to have mercy on me.
**May Almighty God have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins
and give you time to amend your life.**
Amen.

**We confess to God Almighty and in the
presence of all God's people that we
have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and we pray God Almighty to have mercy
on us.**

May Almighty God have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins
and give you time to amend your life.

Amen.

OPENING SONG

GOD IS LOVE: LET HEAVEN ADORE HIM;

God is love: let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
He who spread the heavens above,
He who breathes through all creation,
He is love, eternal love.

God is love, and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race;
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
all the sorrow, all the aching,
wings with pain the heart of God.

God is love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of men,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides them even then.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so Love forever,
o'er the universe must reign.

READING: Lamentations 4

Alas! Gold has lost its luster; pure gold
loses value. Jewels are scattered on
every street corner. ² The precious sons
of Zion were worth their weight in
gold—Alas! —but now they are treated

like broken clay pots, made by a potter. ³ Even the jackals nurse their young at their breast but my people are cruel, like ostriches in the wilderness. ⁴ The infant's tongue sticks to the roof of its mouth due to thirst; little children beg for bread, but no one gives them even a morsel. ⁵ Those who once feasted on delicacies are now starving to death in the streets. Those who grew up wearing expensive clothes are now dying amid garbage. ⁶ The punishment of my people exceeds that of Sodom, which was overthrown in a moment with no one to help her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

HOPE IN DESPAIR (4) A Faded Glory

SONG

WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea-billows roll;
whatever my lot
You have taught me to say,
'It is well, it is well with my soul.'

*It is well with my soul;
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet,
if trials should come,
Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded
my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin – O the bliss of this glorious
thought –
my sin, not in part, but the whole
is nailed to His cross;
and I bear it no more;

praise the Lord,
praise the Lord, O my soul.

For me, be it Christ,
be it Christ hence to live!
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine,
for in death as in life
You will whisper Your peace to my soul.

But Lord, it's for you –
for your coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
O trump of the angel! O voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope! Blessed rest of my soul.

PRAYERS

Lord our God, we pray this morning for all those weeping; for those who've lost loved ones, for those who've lost employment or health, for those who've lost their way in life, for those who've lost dignity and respect.

Lord our God, we pray for those whose faith assumptions have been destroyed by the circumstances of life. We pray that in their distress they may turn to you.

Lord our God, we pray for those who have lost their faith completely. Help them to realise that you are still present, that you are still a loving God who cares.

Lord our God, we pray for the church during this time, that despite our disconnectedness we may know ourselves to be part of your community of faith and loved by our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Lord our God, we pray for our Church leaders, that their decisions and actions may draw us closer to you rather than further away.

Lord our God, we pray for ourselves, that we may learn to lament over our

community, our nation and our world, to weep in such times and know that our tears are received by you.

All these things we pray in Jesus' name. 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

During Supper Jesus poured water into a basin, and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with a towel. He said: "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me."

By that baptism into his death we were buried with Christ and lay dead, **so that as Christ was raised from death we might walk in new life.**

Jesus said: "How I have longed to eat this Passover with you before my death, for I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

As they were eating, he said: "Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were sorrowful and began to ask, "Is it I?"

For I do not do what I want, but do the very thing I hate. **Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup and said, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

Ours is not a high priest unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who has been tested in every way yet without sin. **Therefore let us boldly approach the throne of God.**

He said: "You are those who have stood by me in my trials. I now give you the kingship which my Father gave me, and you shall eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

Blessed be the coming kingdom of our Father David. **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

CLOSING SONG

JESUS IS KING and I will extol Him,
Give Him the glory, and honour His name.
He reigns on high, enthroned in the
heavens,
Word of the Father, exalted for us.

We have a hope that is steadfast and certain,
Gone through the curtain and touching
the throne.
We have a Priest who is there interceding,
Pouring His grace on our lives day by day.

We come to Him, our Priest and Apostle,
Clothed in His glory and bearing His name,
Laying our lives with gladness before Him;
Filled with His Spirit we worship the King.

O Holy One, our hearts do adore You;
Thrilled with Your goodness
we give You our praise.
Angels in light with worship surround Him,

Jesus, our Saviour, forever the same.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

God of a love stronger than death, you have given us new birth into a living hope through the gift of your Son.

God with us, like a mother you have fed us with yourself and strengthened us for the journey ahead. God of truth and power, you take our weakness and our sin and refashion us by your grace.

Gracious God, may the love which bids us welcome at this table gather all your children into one, in your eternal presence, whole and free at last. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and all whom you love, now and always. Amen.

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