

Welcome

Call to Worship - Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good;
His love is eternal. He alone performs great miracles,
He sets us free. He takes care of each one of us.
He is always with us. Never forget to thank Him.
- Psalm 136

Hymn 160

Praise my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet thy tribute bring

1. Praise my soul the King of heaven
To His feet thy tribute bring
Ransomed healed restored forgiven
Who like me His praise should sing
Praise him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Praise the everlasting King
2. Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress
Praise him still the same for ever
Slow to chide and swift to bless
Praise Him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Glorious in His faithfulness
3. Father like He tends and spares us
Well our feeble frame He know
In his hands He gently bears us
Rescues us from all our foes
Praise Him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Widely as His mercy flows
4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish
Blows the wind and it is gone
But while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on
Praise Him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Praise the high eternal One
5. Angels help us to adore Him
Ye behold Him face to face
Sun and moon bow down before Him
Dwellers all in time and space
Praise Him praise Him
Praise Him praise Him
Praise with us the God of grace
Henry Francis Lyte (1793 – 1847)
From Psalm 103
Music John Goss (1800 – 1880)

Prayer and Lord's Prayer (sins)

Lord God, we praise You with all our being.
Let us never forget the kindness You have shown to us.
You forgive all our sins. You bring us healing.
You give us eternal life. You bless us with Your love and mercy.
You fill our lives with good things.

You are merciful and tender towards us.
You have removed all our sins from us through the sacrificial death of Jesus Your Son.
You are like a Father to each one of us, tender and sympathetic
& full of love.
Your loving kindness is from everlasting to everlasting.
As high as the Heavens are above the Earth, so great is Your love to those who honour You.

O Lord our God, we praise You, we lift up our hands in praise.
We worship You this day, in the gathering of Your people.
Lord we depend on You for everything, we can never live without You.

Forgive us Lord for the times we have thought we could do things on our own. Let us learn that without You we can do nothing.
Forgive us Lord for the times we have hurt those closest to us by what we have said or done or thought.
Let us learn to love each other as You love us.
Let us learn to forgive those who may have hurt us.
Let us work hard to be reconciled with those we have been separated from.

Lord, bless this time we have together this morning.
Hear us as we offer up our praise and thanks this day.
Hear us as we talk things through with You in prayer.
Help us to really listen to what You are saying to us as we sing, as we pray and as we hear Your Word.

Receive now our offerings, which we bring to You and use them for Your glory and for the building up of Your Kingdom.
And hear us as we pray in the words which Jesus has taught us:

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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours
Now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Psalm 138 (Irene McFadzean – E & Y) Of David.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
I sing praise to you before the gods.
2 I face your holy Temple,
bow down, and praise your name
because of your constant love and faithfulness,
because you have shown that your name and your commands are supreme.[b]

3 You answered me when I called to you;
with your strength you strengthened me.
4 All the kings in the world will praise you, Lord,
because they have heard your promises.
5 They will sing about what you have done
and about your great glory.
6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for the lowly,
and the proud cannot hide from you.
7 When I am surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe.
You oppose my angry enemies
and save me by your power.
8 You will do everything you have promised;
Lord, your love is eternal.
Complete the work that you have begun.

Hymn 202

Stand up and bless the Lord; all people now rejoice

Stand up and bless the Lord
Ye people of His choice
Stand up and bless the Lord your God
With heart and soul and voice

Though high above all praise
Above all blessing high
Who would not fear His Holy Name
And laud and magnify

O for the living flame
From His own altar brought
To touch our lips our minds inspire
And wing to heaven our thought

God is our strength and song
And His salvation ours
Then be His love in Christ proclaimed
With all our ransomed powers

Stand up and bless the Lord
The Lord your God adore
Stand up and bless His glorious Name
Henceforth for evermore.

Music Melody and most of the harmony by Charles Lockhart (1745 – 1815)

Prayer - (Margaret Milne - Selkirk)

Heavenly Father, thank you that we can come before your gracious throne with confidence because you love us.

Thank you for watching over us and for holding us in the palm of your hand – you are indeed a loving Father.

We bring before you our prayers for others.

We pray for those who have suffered a bereavement.

We know that when we mourn, you mourn with us, you understand.

Father, we pray that you will bring comfort to those who are grieving over the loss of a family member or friend.

We remember those who continue to feel that deep sense of loss after many months and years and we ask that you will surround them with your love at this time.

We pray that they will know that they are not alone during their time of grief – that you are there beside them.

We pray for those who are struggling with illness – whether at home or in hospital.

Father, draw close to them and take away their anxiousness and fear.

We pray that your healing hand will be upon them and that they will feel you near them.

Give them courage and hope Lord, let them know how much you care about them.

Lord, we pray for those who are waiting on the results of hospital tests and those who are worried about a forthcoming doctor's appointment.

Strengthen them we pray – give them your peace in their hearts and the knowledge that you are with them.

Gracious Father, we pray for those who are worried at this time.

For those who are worrying about loved ones – for those who have worries about their future; uncertain about their job, uncertain about a relationship or uncertain about a life changing decision they are facing. Help them to know that they can cast all their worries and cares on you Lord.

Bring them your reassurance and give them a clear path to follow - for we know that with every step we take, Jesus walks with us. He has promised he will never leave us and he will help us through these uncertain times.

Father, we bring before you those who we are concerned for and we pray for them now in a time of silence (wait 15 seconds)

Thank you Lord that you have heard our prayers and that we are all in your care throughout this coming week.

Lord, we pray for our church families in Selkirk, Ashkirk, Ettrick and Yarrow.

Help us to listen to your guidance – help us to accept your plans for us with thankful hearts.

For you know the plans you have for us – plans to give us hope and a future.

Help us to focus on your plans for us throughout this coming week – your plans for our church families and your plans for us individually – secure in the knowledge that we can put all our trust and hope in you.

And Lord, we pray that throughout this coming week you will help us to show your love, care and compassion to all those you may bring us into contact with.

Help us to recognise when those around us are in need of a word of encouragement and a listening ear.

Help us to be mindful of the needs of others so that others may see Jesus in us and come to know him for themselves.

For we bring all our prayers before you in Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn 189

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here

Be still for the presence of the Lord the holy One is here

Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord the holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around

He burns with holy fire with splendour He is crowned

How awesome is the sight our radiant king of light

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place

He comes to cleanse and heal to minister His grace

No work to hard for Him in faith receive from Him

Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Music David J. Evans (b.1957)

Bible Teaching - Luke 17 v 11-19 (GNB) Jesus Heals Ten Men

‘Pray Fervently, Obey Faithfully, Thank Profusely.’

Last Sunday we looked together at how Jesus encourages us to keep on praying and not to give up.

This morning we will continue to look at

how we should pray, based on one of the miracles of healing Jesus performed as recorded in the Gospel of Luke.

LUKE 17 v 11-19 (GNB)

Jesus Heals Ten Men

¹¹ As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem, he went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² He was going into a village when he was met by ten men suffering from a dreaded skin disease. They stood at a distance ¹³ and shouted, “Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!”

¹⁴ Jesus saw them and said to them, “Go and let the priests examine you.”

On the way they were made clean.^{1a} ¹⁵ When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself to the ground at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Jesus spoke up, “There were ten who were healed; where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Get up and go; your faith has made you well.

Jesus and His disciples were on there way to Jerusalem, walking along the border between Samaria & Galilee.

Just as they were about to enter a village,

ten men approached him. Luke, who was a doctor, tells us that these men were ‘suffering from a terrible skin disease,’ almost certainly leprosy.

Luke tells us that ‘they stood at a distance.’ Because of its infectious nature, those who had leprosy were required to keep their distance from others.

A concept which, sadly is all too familiar to us today, having experienced for ourselves the recent pandemic and the need to keep two metres away from everyone.

The rules concerning leprosy were much stricter. One Jewish authority stated that if the wind was blowing from a leper to a healthy person, the leper should stand at least 50 yards away!

And so these ten men had been put outside the village by their people in case they themselves became infected.

Sadly this still happens today!

A few years ago when I was in Uganda, we visited a community of people who were HIV positive and living deep in the jungle, separate from everyone else.

Now it is very interesting to note that these men were of mixed nationality and race. We know that there was a least one Samaritan among them.

Now, as we know, Jews and Samaritans hated each other and NEVER mixed.

But these men were united in their common affliction and that bond was stronger than any social, political or national barriers.

These ten men had FORGOTTEN that they were Jews and Samaritans and knew only that they were men in desperate need!

So, this morning, as we think about how we should approach God in prayer,

We learn from what these men did.

We reflect upon what Jesus said to them.

We look at how those men responded to Jesus.

And we lament on what only one of them did.

First of all then,

WE LEARN FROM WHAT THESE MEN DID

What did they do? They came to Jesus!

As the hymn puts it: 'I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad.

I found in Him a resting place and He has made me glad.'

If I am concerned about my health, I go to the doctor!

If I am concerned about my money, I go to a financial adviser!

If I am concerned about my car, I go to a mechanic!

I go to the professional - to the person who knows how to deal with my concern.

As Christians, our first step, when we are concerned about ANYTHING should be to come to Jesus!

HE is the professional!

HE is the Great Physician!

HE is the One who can sort us out!

So these ten men came to Jesus.

Why?

Because they felt within themselves that this Man was able to help them!

That this Man had the power over disease and even over death itself.

That this Man could be trusted - trusted to heal them and to restore them to their families and friends.

Let's look at what they said:

'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us!'

Now this is a prayer in itself.

Asking for Jesus to help them in their particular situation.

These men were DRIVEN to utter this

prayer. Driven by their own desperate and pitiful condition.

And, sadly, it's often only when you and I feel that WE are in a desperate situation that WE cry out to Jesus in prayer!

Do WE ask for His help!

We treat Him as a sort of 'last resort.'

We've tried to sort it out on our own and failed. We've asked others to help us, but that hasn't worked, so let's ask Jesus!

Now, I believe that Jesus doesn't mind us coming to Him in this way - He's pleased that we have come to Him.

But I'm sure He would much prefer that we came to Him in the first place!

Last Sunday we sang these words:

'Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!'

Some years ago I tried to fit an inner tube to my bicycle wheel.
I didn't have the proper tools or the know-how to carry out such a task.

But I persevered, I struggled, I got angry at my inability to get the tyre off the wheel.

I spent hours trying to get the thing off,
my hands were aching, my mood was depressed.

I felt such a failure, unable to carry out such a simple task.

'You should take it to the bike shop,'
my wife had suggested at the very beginning.

But no, 'I can do it myself,' I said.
How wrong I was!

The next day I took it to the bike shop!
The man there took one look at it, got out the proper tools and in seconds had the tyre off!

'Why didn't I come to him before!'

I would have saved myself hours of struggle and effort and pain and depression!

Sometimes it's like that in our lives as Christians, isn't it!

We struggle on in our own strength,
thinking that we can sort it out for ourselves when all we need to do is go to the expert and ask Him to help us!

All we need to do is go to the 'Heavenly bike shop' and ask for assistance!

All we need to do is to go to Jesus, explain our situation to Him and ask Him to help us!

'Ask the Saviour to help you
Comfort, strengthen and keep you.
HE is willing to aid you,
HE will carry you through!'

And we need to come to Him as those ten men did. We need to feel a deep sense of need when we pray!
We need to CRY OUT to the Lord in prayer!
We need to say: 'Lord, I so much want this to be sorted, I BEG you Lord,
I PLEAD with You! Please listen to me & answer my prayer!

We need to be FERVENT in prayer!
James says: 'The fervent prayer of a righteous person is powerful & effective!'

Where the word 'fervent' means intensely passionate and sincere, heart-felt, ardent enthusiastic, intense, eager, strong.'

I wonder if these words could be used to describe OUR prayers!

We NEED to be passionate and strong when we pray and not half-hearted.

We need to feel deeply about what we are praying for.

Whether it's about praying for someone who is ill, for someone to become a Christian, for the people of Ukraine, or for ourselves!

We need to 'pour out our hearts before the Lord.' Be deeply concerned about who or what we pray for.

For when we pray like that we begin to experience and enjoy a much more satisfying and fulfilling relationship with the One to whom we pray!
And prayer is all about relationship!

So these ten men fervently asked Jesus to help them.

Next we REFLECT UPON HOW JESUS REPLIED TO THEM

How does Jesus reply?

He simply says:
'Go and let the priests examine you.'

That's all He says!
The priests were the only people who could pronounce a leper to be 'clean or unclean,' cured or uncured.

So how do we think these ten men felt when they heard Jesus speak these words?

How would YOU have felt if you had been in their place?

Stunned and hugely disappointed,
I should have thought!

This was not what they had expected to hear!

They had expected Jesus to lay hands on them and tell them that they were now made well.

Or at least, say to them: 'You are healed, now go on your way.'

'Is that it,' they must have thought.

‘Why didn’t He prescribe us some medicine or ask us to go and wash in a pool or something like that.’

They were deeply disappointed, but they were desperate men, so they trudged off in the direction of the Temple in Jerusalem to see the priests.

And we know that, as they went, a great miracle took place that day and all ten of them were healed!

Their prayer had been answered, but not on the way they had expected!

And is that often not the way with OUR prayers?

Often the answers which God gives us when we pray to Him are not the answers we expect!

In fact, sometimes we could say that they are not the answers we wanted!

‘Lord, I’m feeling so low and depressed,

You know all that’s been happening to me over the last few months - at home, with the family, at work.

You know the strain I am under.

Please Lord, relieve some of that strain,

help me out of this melancholy, cheer me up, encourage me, help me to feel better

I pray.’

And the only answer we seem to get is:

‘Just keep on doing what you’re doing!

Keep going along to church, keep reading your Bible, keep praying.’

‘What sort of answer is that Lord?

How does that help me in my situation?

I need You to DO something for me,

to prescribe something for me.

Send me a friend who will cheer me up,

cause things to get better at work,

enable relationships to improve in my

family, help me to feel better about

everything.’

But that is God’s answer to me.

That is what He wants me to do.

It all seems too simple.

But it’s right!

He just wants me to continue to build up my relationship with Him, to worship Him, to speak with Him, to learn from Him.

And in THAT way, He will help me to cope with all that I am going through.

Doing as He says will strengthen me and enable me to overcome the difficulties I am facing.

Next we look at HOW THOSE MEN RESPONDED TO JESUS.

Each one of those ten men believed that Jesus could heal them.

They had FAITH in Him to do so.

But if they WERE to be healed they needed to show that faith by their OBEDIENCE!

And so they did exactly as Jesus asked them to do, even though it was not what they had expected.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a faithful German pastor who was imprisoned and executed for opposing the Nazis.

He wrote these words:

‘Faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it. Faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience!’

For example, I might ask someone how I can get to Edinburgh.

‘Just go down there to the bus stop and the Edinburgh bus will come along shortly,’ they may tell me.

Now, I can believe that what that person said is right. I can have FAITH in what they have told me, but that’s not enough to get me to Edinburgh!

I need to exercise OBEDIENCE and walk down to the bus stop and actually get on the bus if I want to get to Edinburgh!

‘Faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience!’

Obedience is the key.

Talking about the obedience of these ten men, Bishop Ryle writes:

‘It is in the path of such obedience that Christ will meet and bless us!’

Those ten men OBEYED Jesus and were blessed by Him.

And we too can be blessed by Him when WE obey His requests as He answers our prayers.

We ALLOW Him to help us when we obey Him.

He may not always give us the answers we want, but if do as He tells us, we will be blessed, we will be helped, we will receive what we asked for.

Remember Mary’s words about Jesus to the servants at the wedding:

‘Whatever He says to you, do it!’

They did it, and the whole wedding party were blessed with the finest wine ever!

And so all ten men were completely healed on their way to the Temple.

And all ten of them returned to Jesus and thanked Him for what He had done for them.

Not quite!

And that brings us to our final point -

WE LAMENT ON WHAT ONLY ONE OF THEM DID.

Only one of them returned to thank Him - and He was a Samaritan, the last person you would expect to come back and thank a Jew!

And what a thank you it was. He praised God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked Him profusely.

‘But surely all ten of you were healed,’

says Jesus. ‘Where are the other nine?’

‘Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?’

There is much that we can learn from this passage, simply about the importance of saying thank you to someone who has helped us.

To our parents, our children, our grandchildren, our friends, our workmates, our doctors, our ministers, our brothers and sisters in Christ and many more.

How hurtful it is for us not to hear a simple word of thanks for something we have done for another.

In Shakespeare's King Lear, the king laments the ingratitude of his offspring: 'How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.'

It's important to remember to say thanks.
And it's especially important to say thank You to our Lord.

Bishop Ryle writes: 'The best of us are far too like the nine lepers.

We are more ready to pray than to praise and more disposed to ask God for what we have not, than to thank Him for what we have!'

The Psalmist writes: 'Bless the Lord,
O my soul and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.'

And, as we sang only last week:
'Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One.'

Nine out of ten of the men who had been healed had forgotten all about Jesus.
About the One who had given them all that they ever wanted.

They were so caught up in themselves and in their new-found freedom, that they forgot all about the One who had made it all possible!

'How ungrateful can you get!'
we might say - and yet do we at times not do the same as they did and forget to thank OUR families, OUR friends and others and most importantly of all, forget to thank God?

Bishop Ryle again:
'The widespread thanklessness of Christians is the disgrace of our day!'

And that was written over 160 years ago!

And he adds:
'It is plain proof of our little humility!'

We ALL need to say 'Thank you' more often.
We should not have to wait for God to say to us as our parents did when were little: 'What do you say?'
We need to pray for a thankful spirit.
We need to always remember to say 'Thank you!'

Paul write these words in Colossians 4
v 2: 'Don't be weary in prayer; keep at it; watch for God's answers -

AND REMEMBER TO THANK HIM when they come!’

And in Philippians 4 v 6:
‘Don’t worry about anything;
instead, pray about everything;
tell God your needs and
DON’T FORGET TO THANK HIM
for His answers!’

Each day we must remind ourselves of just how indebted we are to the Lord - and of how: ‘Without Him we are nothing!’

Let us allow those truths of our own inadequacy and utter dependence on Him to sink deep into our very minds and souls.

PROMPTING us to PRAY fervently and passionately to Him.

ENCOURAGING us to OBEY whatever it is He tells us to do.

And MOVING us to GIVE THANKS to Him for prayers answered and for His continuing grace, mercy and love!

And so the message of this miracle of Jesus can be summed up in three simple words:

PRAY - OBEY - THANK.

Let us PRAY fervently!

Let us OBEY faithfully!

Let us THANK Him profusely!

Hymn 159

Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided

Lord for the years Your love has kept and guided
Urged and inspired us cheered us on our way
Sought us and saved us pardon’d and provided
Lord of the years we bring our thanks today

Lord for that word the word of life which fires us
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us
Lord of the word receive Your people’s praise

Lord for our land in this our generation
Spirits oppressed by pleasure wealth and care
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation
Lord of our land be pleased to hear our prayer

Lord for our world when we disown and doubt You
Loveless in strength and comfortless in pain
Hungry and helpless lost indeed without You
Lord of the world we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves in living pow'r remake us
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne
Past put behind us for the future take us
Lord of our lives to live for Christ alone

Music Michael Baughen (b.1930)

Arranged David Iliff (b. 1939)

Benediction - 'And now may
the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Love of God
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and forevermore.'

(3 fold Amen)