

Christ Church Liturgy, May 8, 2016

Meditation

His Omnipotence means power to do all that is intrinsically possible, not to do the intrinsically impossible. You may attribute miracles to Him, but not nonsense. There is no limit to His power.

If you choose to say, 'God can give a creature free will and at the same time withhold free will from it,' you have not succeeded in saying anything about God: meaningless combinations of words do not suddenly acquire meaning simply because we prefix to them the two other words, 'God can.'

It remains true that all things are possible with God: the intrinsic impossibilities are not things but nonentities. It is no more possible for God than for the weakest of His creatures to carry out both of two mutually exclusive alternatives; not because His power meets an obstacle, but because nonsense remains nonsense even when we talk it about God. – C.S. Lewis

God Calls Us to Worship

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! ...Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven. And He has exalted the horn of His people, the praise of all His saints – of the children of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise the Lord! **AMEN**

Psalm 148:1, 13-14

Hymn 660 – O God Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 22:27-31

Leader: All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.

Congregation: For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He rules over the nations.

Leader: All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship;

Congregation: All those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him, even he who cannot keep himself alive.

Leader: A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,

Congregation: They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done this. AMEN

Psalm 22I – Book of Psalms for Singing

1 All ends of earth, remembr'ing Him,
Shall turn themselves unto the LORD.
The kindreds of the nations then
To Him their homage shall accord.
Because the LORD the kingdom owns
And rules above all earthly thrones.

2 The rich and mighty of the earth
Shall eat and low before Him bend,
And in His presence all shall bow
Who helpless to the dust descend,
The wretched who, although they strive,
Yet cannot keep their souls alive.

3 A see shall rise to serve His will,
And to the age it shall be told
About our Lord; then they shall come
And shall His righteousness unfold
Unto a people yet unknown,
That this was done by Him alone. AMEN

Confession of Sin

Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. **AMEN**

Psalm 19:12-13

****Silent Confession followed by Corporate Confession****

Leader: Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

Congregation: Lord, we confess that there is no one righteous, no, not one. No one understands, no one seeks for God. We all have turned aside; together we have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. So to You, O Lord, do we lift up our souls. O Lord God, in You do we trust. Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your paths. Lead us in Your truth, and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation; for You we do wait all the day long.

Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love. Remember not our sins and transgressions; according to Your steadfast love, remember us, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord! **AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy... As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. **AMEN**

Psalm 103:8, 12

Leader: Our sins are forgiven!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 103A – Book of Psalms for Singing

1 Bless the LORD, my soul; my whole heart

Ever bless His holy name.

Bless the LORD, my soul; forget not

All His mercies to proclaim.

Who forgives all thy transgressions,

Thy diseases all who heals;

Who redeems thee from destruction,

Who with thee so kindly deals.

2 Who with love and mercy crowns thee;

Satisfies thy mouth with good,

So that even like the eagle

Thou art blessed with youth renewed.

In His righteousness Jehovah
Will deliver those distressed;
He will execute just judgement
In the cause of all oppressed.

3 He made known His ways to Moses,
And His acts to Israel's race;
Tender, loving is Jehovah,
Slow to anger, rich in grace.
He will not forever chide us
Nor will keep His anger still,
Has not dealt as we offended
Nor requited us our ill.

4 For as high as is the heaven,
Far above the earth below,
Ever great to them that fear Him
Is the mercy He will show.
Far as east from west is distant
He has put away our sin;
Like the pity of a father
Has Jehovah's pity been.
AMEN

Confession of Faith – Selections from the Westminster Creed

I believe God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth; I believe there is but one true and living God; that there are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and that these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; I believe God has foreordained whatever comes to pass; that God made all things of nothing, by the word of His power, in the space of six days, and all very good; and that God preserves and governs all His creatures and all their actions. **AMEN**

Intercessory Prayer

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **AMEN** Philippians 4:6-7

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
AMEN

God Consecrates Us with His Word

The Reading of the Scriptures: Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27;
Mark 8:27-9:1

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon: How to Suffer Well (and Count It All Joy!)

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past – Trinity Hymnal 30

1 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received her frame,

from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
with all their lives and cares,
are carried downward by your flood,
and lost in foll'wing years.

6 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

7 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come:
O be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home. AMEN

God Communes With Us

Merciful Father, we lift our eyes from the visible elements even as we lift up our hearts to heaven itself, where Jesus Christ is, seated on the right hand of the Father, from where He shall come again to complete our redemption, in whom all the promises of God are fulfilled, and all spiritual blessings are to be found. In joy of heart, in brotherly union, in Christian love we come to partake of Your table, giving thanks for the great love which You have shown to us through Christ our Lord.

AMEN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing – Trinity Hymnal 420

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who has washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

2 Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.

3 Mighty victim from the sky,
pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;
death is conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light:
hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father, praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be. AMEN

God Commissions Us

And we know that all things worth together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom he called, these He also justified; and whom he justified, these He also glorified. What

then shall we say to these things? If God is for us who can be against us? **AMEN**
Romans 8:28-31

Gloria Patri – Trinity Hymnal 735

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen. **AMEN**