

Adoring God

“The world rings with praise. Lovers praising their mistresses, readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favorite game, praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, motors, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, even sometimes politicians or scholars. I had not noticed how the humblest and at the same time most balanced and capacious minds (essentially minds with lots of hard drive space) praised most, while the cranks, misfits and malcontents praised least. Praise almost seems to be inner health made audible. I had not noticed either that just as men praise spontaneously what they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praise. Isn't she lovely? Wasn't that glorious? Don't you think that magnificent? I think we delight to praise what we enjoy, because the praise not merely expresses, but completes the enjoyment.”

C. S. Lewis

Praise To The Lord

Let all of us, Wherever we are, In every place, At every hour, At every time of day, Every day and continually Believe truly and humbly, And keep in our heart, And love, honor, adore, serve, praise and bless, Glorify and exalt, magnify and give thanks to The **Most High and Supreme and Eternal God**, Trinity and unity, The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Creator of all, Savior of all who believe in him, And hope in him, And love him; Who is without beginning and without end, Unchangeable and invisible, Incomprehensible, unfathomable, Blessed, worthy of praise, Glorious, exalted on high, sublime, Most high, gentle, lovable, Delectable and totally desirable above all else forever. AMEN. **AN ECSTATIC HYMN FROM THE EARLIER RULE by St. Francis of Assisi**

Your Name

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:1-10

To God Be The Glory

Prayers of gratitude from the congregation

PRAYER

Most of us here, Lord, are Gentiles by birth, which means that at one time we would have been excluded from your salvation - on the outside looking in - hopelessly shut off from the promises of Christ, disqualified from the possibility of eternal life. Any thought of a personal relationship with you would have merely been a pipe dream.

But Jesus, you changed all that through the blood you spilled for us at Calvary. That selfless act of sacrifice made us your blood-bought children, and we now have been adopted into your family, with full rights and privileges. What haven't you done for us that needed doing, what was broken that wasn't fixed, so that we could be fully restored to God? The wall of hostility between Jew and Gentile has been torn down, and in its place a new species has been created out of the two, for we have been reconciled to God through the cross. The Spirit ushers us into your awesome presence, Father, where we boldly enter in, feeling fully welcomed.

Now as fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, we thank you for the firm foundation of the apostles and prophets that we stand on, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. This building can withstand anything that might come against it, and the entire structure is joined together as a holy temple for the Lord to dwell. Here we stand here before you now, a spiritual house specially designed for you to inhabit by your Spirit.

Fairest Lord Jesus
My Savior My God
(start with chorus a cappella)

OFFERING
Our Great God

SERMON