

ST PAUL'S

GROWING IN THE GRACE OF *JESUS*
LIVING IN THE LOVE OF *GOD*
FEASTING IN THE FELLOWSHIP
OF THE *SPIRIT*

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

GATHERING *h*ymn

ST GEORGES WINSOR

Sing of God made manifest
in a Child robust and blest,
to Whose home in Bethlehem
where a star had guided them,
magi came and gifts unbound,
signs mysterious and profound:
myrrh and frankincense and gold
grave and God and king foretold.

Sing of God made manifest
when at Jordan John confessed,
"I should be baptized by You,
but Your bidding I will do."
Then from heaven a double sign—
dove-like Spirit, Voice divine—
hailed the true Anointed One:
"This is My beloved Son."

**Sing of God made manifest
when Christ came as wedding guest
and at Cana gave a sign,
turning water into wine;
further still was love revealed
as He taught, forgave, and healed,
bringing light and life to all
who would listen to God's call.**

Author: Carl P. Daw, Jr (1944-);

CALL TO WORSHIP

For from the rising of the sun to its setting My Name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to My Name, and a pure offering; for My Name is great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:11

THE EXHORTATION

Dearly beloved, the Scriptures teach us to acknowledge our many sins and offenses, not concealing them from our heavenly Father, but confessing them with humble and obedient hearts that we may obtain forgiveness by His infinite goodness and mercy. We ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before Almighty God, but especially when we come together in His presence to give thanks for the great benefits we have received at His hands, to declare His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things which are necessary for our life and our salvation. Therefore, draw near with me to the throne of heavenly grace.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have

done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from Your grace, there is no health in us. O Lord have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name. **AMEN**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, desires not the death of sinners, but that they may turn from their wickedness and live. He has empowered and commanded His ministers to pronounce to His people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all who truly repent and genuinely believe His holy Gospel. For this reason, we beseech Him to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit, that our present deeds may please Him, the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to His eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

The INVITATORY

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

O God, make speed to save us;
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. **AMEN**

Praise the Lord.
The Lord's Name be praised.

The VENITE

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our Salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. In His hand are all the depths of the earth, and the heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands prepared the dry land. O come, let us worship and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; worship the LORD in holy splendour.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in His temple all say, 'Glory!'

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as King for ever.

May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end;**

AMEN

THE FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in My sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’, and to the south, ‘Do not withhold; bring My sons from far away and My daughters from the end of the earth—⁷ everyone who is called by My Name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made.’

The word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTUS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; He has come to His people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of His servant David. Through His holy prophets He promised of old that He would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who

hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant. This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship Him without fear, holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way, to give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN

The SECOND LESSON - Luke 3:15-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but One Who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in His hand, to clear His threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into His granary; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased.'

The word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Ecce, Deus

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and He will be my Saviour. Therefore, you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say, 'Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His Name'; make His deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that His Name is exalted. Sing the praises of the Lord, for He has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN

The Message With the Holy Spirit & Fire The Rev'd Kris Michaelson

The Responsatory

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

O Lord, show Your mercy upon us;

And grant us Your salvation.

O Lord, guide those who govern us;

And lead us in the way of justice and truth.

Clothe Your ministers with righteousness;

And let Your people sing with joy.

O Lord, save Your people;

And bless Your inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord;

And defend us by Your mighty power.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

*Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And take not Your Holy Spirit from us.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Heavenly Father, Whose blessed Son Jesus Christ did take our nature upon Him, and was baptized for our sakes in the river Jordan: mercifully grant that we being regenerate, and made Your children by adoption and grace, may also be partakers of Your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know You is eternal life and to serve You is perfect freedom: Defend us, Your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in Your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

A COLLECT FOR GRACE

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: Defend us by Your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that, guided by Your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

A PRAYER FOR ALL HUMANITY

O God, you made us in Your own image, and You have redeemed us through Your Son Jesus Christ: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish Your purposes on earth. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and help us to

use our freedom rightly in the establishment of justice in our communities; that, in Your good time, all nations and races may serve You in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Your unworthy servants give You humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom You have made. We bless You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of Your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth Your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Your service, and by walking before You in holiness and righteousness all our days; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory throughout all ages.

AMEN

Δ PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, You have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to You; and You have promised through Your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in His Name You will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of Your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.

AMEN

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

AMEN

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
to you who to Jesus for refuge have fled?**

**When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell shall endeavour to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.**

Author: John Rippon (1751-1836)