

Bible Reading: Acts 25:23-26:32

Sermon: Paul's Testimony ... again!

And can it be that I should gain

an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love? How can it be
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2. 'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;
Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.

3. He left His Father's throne above –
so free, so infinite His grace –
emptied Himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race:
'tis mercy all immense and free:
for, O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell, off my heart was free,
I rose went forth, and followed Thee.

5. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Charles Wesley, 1707–88 | Tune: Sagina

Benediction

Notices & Matters for Prayer

Welcome to Oxford Pres! Children are welcome in all our services – there are activity sheets available on the welcome table and a crèche area with livestream of the service downstairs. Please stay afterwards for tea and coffee, and to spend time getting to know each other!

Evening Worship, 5pm Andy will be preaching on Exodus 29. We will be sharing the Lord's Supper.

Missionary Evening Thursday, 6:30-8:30pm at the Horgans' – further details to follow.

Youth Group meets this Friday from 7-9pm at Robin's for fun, games and a study on Colossians!

Please be responsible for your property and (parents) your children whilst you are with us. If you wish to be added to the church email list, please speak with Alberto or Andy.

*QR code
for online
giving:



www.oxfordpres.co.uk | CCLI 1588630

Sunday 29th September 2024, 10:30am

Welcome & Notices

Call to Worship

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Psalm 150:1-2 & 6

Opening Prayer

You made the starry hosts,

You traced the mountain peaks,
You paint the evening sky with wonders.
The earth, it is Your throne
from desert to the sea;
all nature testifies Your splendour.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
sing His greatness all creation!
Praise the Lord, raise your voice,
you heights and all you depths,
from furthest east to west!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!*

2. You reached into the dust,
in love, Your Spirit breathed,
You formed us in Your very likeness
to know Your wondrous works,
to tell Your mighty deeds,
to join the everlasting chorus.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord...

3. Let symphonies resound,
let drums and choirs ring out,
all heaven hear the sound of worship.
Let every nation bring
its honours to the King,
a roar of harmonies eternal.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
sing His greatness all creation!
Praise the Lord, raise your voice,
you heights and all you depths,
from furthest east to west!*

*You distant burning stars,
all creatures near and far,
from sky to sea to shore,
sing out forevermore!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!*

Psalm 150 | Matt Boswell & Matt Papa © 2020 Getty Music

Reading of the Law

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'

Matthew 22:34-40

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Romans 8:31-34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Come, behold the wondrous mystery

in the dawning of the King;
he, the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come;
look to Christ, who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.

2. Come, behold the wondrous mystery:
he the perfect Son of Man;
in his living, in his suffering,
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ, the great and sure fulfilment
of the law – in him we stand.

3. Come, behold the wondrous mystery!
Christ the Lord upon the tree:
in the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
see the Father's plan unfold,
bringing many sons to glory –
grace unmeasured, love untold!

4. Come, behold the wondrous mystery:
slain by death, the God of life;
but no grave could e'er restrain him –
praise the Lord: he is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance,
how unwavering our hope:
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when he comes.

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker
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Children's Talk

Collection of Tithes & Offerings*

Prayer of Intercession

Confession of Faith

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and death?

Congregation: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Heidelberg Catechism 1

With thankful hearts we rise,

with gratitude we come,
to him alone who sits enthroned,
to Father, Spirit, Son.
To him who ever dwells above,
who knows our sin, yet speaks in love,
who blesses us to bless – the God of grace.

2. An ordinary church,
a city on a hill;
through ordinary means of grace
may Christ illumine still.
And as our forebears told your fame,
may we too boldly own your name,
as those who live to praise the God of grace.

*With one voice we sing,
with one heart we honour him;
hear his name, once again, fill this place.
With one voice we sing,
with one heart we honour him:
Christ the Lord, Christ the God of grace*

5. So move us, Holy One,
as empty, to receive;
and filled, to share this hope of heaven,
that lost ones may believe.
In mercy you have drowned our guilt,
on mercy may your church be built
and, blessed to bless, extol the God of grace.

With one voice we sing...

Neil Martin, Greg Dempster, Gabby Claude, Matt Eldridge © 2023 OPC Music

3. Look out upon our streets,
with tenderness and care;
when leaders falter, friendships fail,
Good Shepherd, find us there.
No other so deserves our trust,
so bold, compassionate, and just;
we cling to you alone, the God of grace.

4. For even at our worst,
with fists raised to your face,
with crowns thrust down upon our brows,
our Jesus took our place.
He saw the consequences, all
the twisted wreckage of the fall,
and bore it to the cross, the God of grace.

*With one voice we sing,
with one heart we honour him;
hear his name, once again, fill this place.
With one voice we sing,
with one heart we honour him:
Christ the Lord, Christ the God of grace*

Prayer for Understanding of God's Word