

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Don Price

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Ian Higginson

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has set this day before us,

A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.

God has set our lives before us,

A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve.

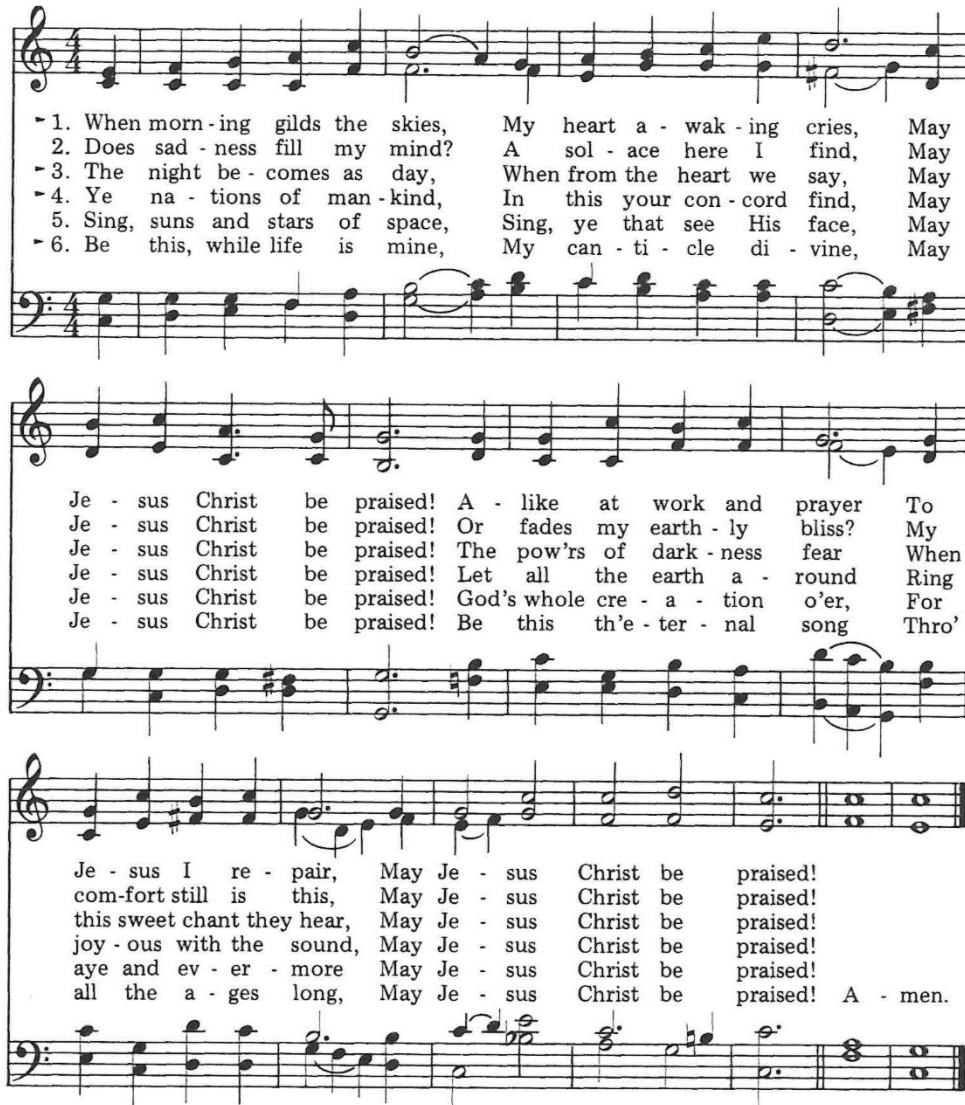
God has set God's seal upon our hearts,

So that we might live fully in deep love.

Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

May Jesus Christ Be Praised



1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart a - wak - ing cries, May
 2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find, May
 3. The night be - comes as day, When from the heart we say, May
 4. Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find, May
 5. Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face, May
 6. Be this, while life is mine, My can - ti - cle di - vine, May

Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer To
 Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss? My
 Je - sus Christ be praised! The pow'rs of dark - ness fear When
 Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round Ring
 Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er, For
 Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this th'e - ter - nal song Thro'

Je - sus I re - pair, May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 com-fort still is this, May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 this sweet chant they hear, May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 joy - ous with the sound, May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 aye and ev - er - more May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 all the a - ges long, May Je - sus Christ be praised! A - men.

TEXT: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Würzburg, 1828;
 translated by Edward Caswall
 MUSIC: Joseph Barnby

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Confessing is like walking into a dark cave, seeing nothing, hearing nothing. We do not know what we will find there.

Maybe we will find the bones of things long dead. Maybe we will find the living wings of a bat, or the thousand feet of some worm thing. Maybe we will find the silence not at all quiet, but full of unknown rustles. Maybe we will find ourselves, and find old hurts or desires that are long dead, and find the thousand feet of some urge or temptation that could carry us away in a heartbeat.

But it is only in the deepest dark that we can see

The light that is always present, that sliver of light that comes from an unknown place, that sliver of light that gives us hope, that sliver of light that looks a bit like grace.

It is only in the stillest silence that we can hear the whisper of mercy. Let us enter into silence.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, Sisters, Brothers, hear this good news and see the grace of God. You are forgiven. You are free to go and live in the light of love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

**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.**

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

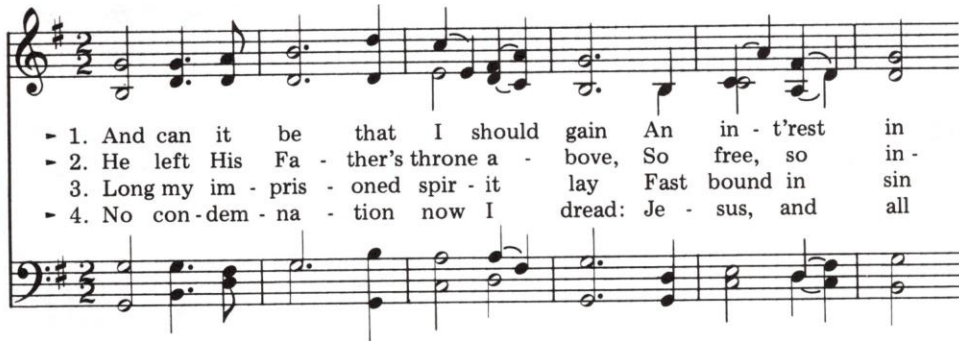
SCRIPTURE Ephesians 1:1-14

SERMON *Blessed in Christ*

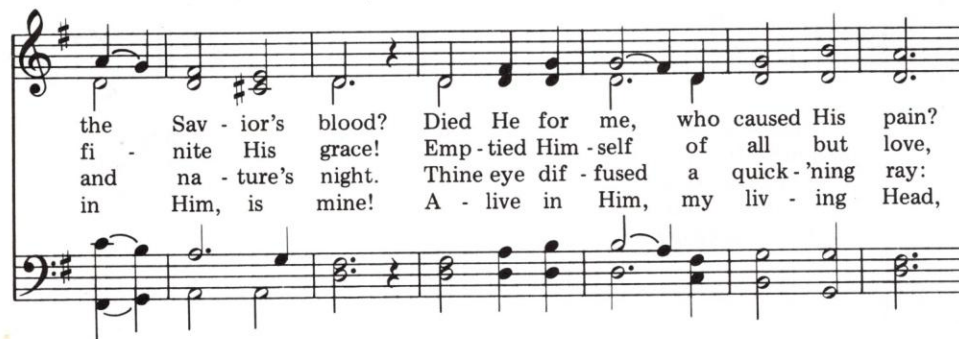
OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN

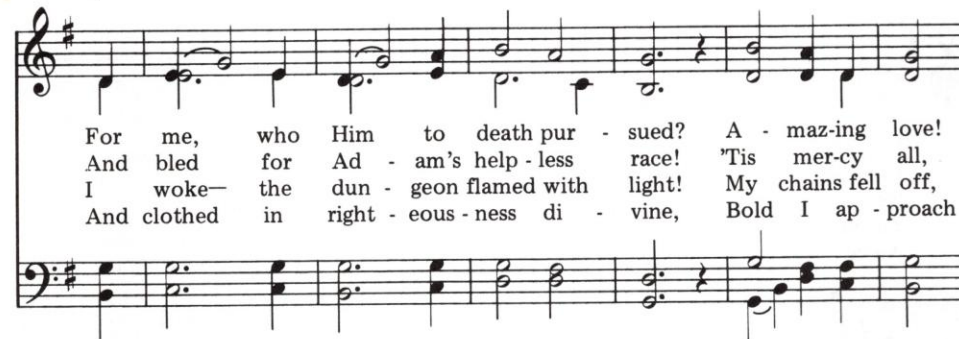
And Can It Be?



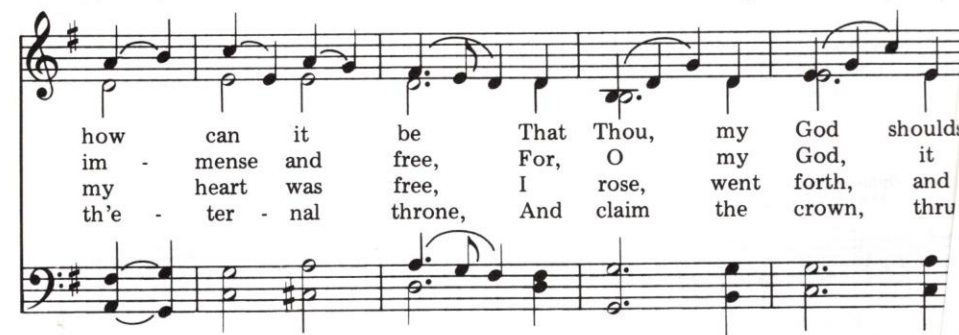
1. And can it be that I should gain An in - t'rest in
2. He left His Fa - ther's throne a - bove, So free, so in -
3. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay Fast bound in sin
4. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread: Je - sus, and all



the Sav - ior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain?
fi - nite His grace! Emp - tied Him - self of all but love,
and na - ture's night. Thine eye dif - fused a quick - 'ning ray:
in Him, is mine! A - live in Him, my liv - ing Head,



For me, who Him to death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love!
And bled for Ad - am's help - less race! 'Tis mer - cy all,
I woke - the dun - geon flamed with light! My chains fell off,
And clothed in right - eous - ness di - vine, Bold I ap - proach



how can it be That Thou, my God should
im - mense and free, For, O my God, it
my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and
th'e - ter - nal throne, And claim the crown, thru

TEXT: Charles Wesley

MUSIC: Thomas Campbell; Choral ending by Joseph Linn

SAG!
8.8.8.8.8.8. with Re

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Refrain

die for me?
found out me. A - maz - ing love! how can it
fol - lowed Thee.
Christ my own.

A -maz-ing love! how

be That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

can it be

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

SONG OF PRAISE

**We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we offer our gifts to you, Holy God, may we remember those who are forgotten by us too many times: the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, the vulnerable, yet are important citizens in your kingdom of grace, justice, and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER with the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

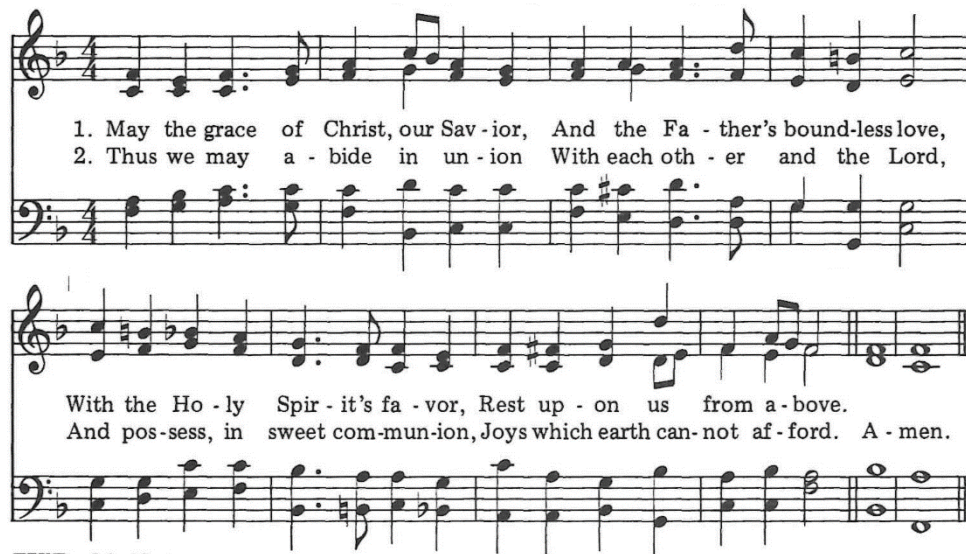
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN

May the Grace of Christ, Our Savior



1. May the grace of Christ, our Sav - ior, And the Fa - ther's bound-less love,
2. Thus we may a - bide in un - ion With each oth - er and the Lord,

With the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor, Rest up - on us from a - bove.
And pos - sess, in sweet com - mun - ion, Joys which earth can - not af - ford. A - men.

TEXT: John Newton
MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven

CLOSING BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Hail, Jesus Christ, Our Redeemer

H.S. Livingston, Jr.