

Ask, Seek, Knock
Luke 11:1–13
July 24th, 2022

Welcome

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

Call to Worship

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Prayer of Adoration

O gracious and holy God,
give us diligence to seek you,
wisdom to perceive you,
and patience to wait for you.
Grant us, O God,
a mind to meditate on you,
eyes to behold you,
ears to listen for your Word,
a heart to love you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn **Trusting Jesus**

Simply trusting every day
Trusting through a stormy way
Even when my faith is small
Trusting Jesus that is all

Trusting as the moments fly
 Trusting as the days go by
 Trusting Him whate'er befall
 Trusting Jesus that is all

Brightly doth His Spirit shine
 Into this poor heart of mine
 While He leads I cannot fall
 Trusting Jesus that is all
 Trusting as the moments fly
 Trusting as the days go by
 Trusting Him whate'er befall
 Trusting Jesus that is all

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
 and of your steadfast love,
 for they have been from of old.
 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
 according to your steadfast love remember me,
 for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
 Good and upright is the LORD;
 therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
 For your name's sake, O LORD,
 pardon my guilt, for it is great.
 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
 for I am lonely and afflicted.
 Relieve the troubles of my heart,
 and bring me out of my distress.
 Consider my affliction and my trouble,
 and forgive all my sins.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news
 Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins

is proclaimed to you.
 In Christ we have redemption through his blood,
 the forgiveness of our trespasses,
 according to the riches of his grace

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.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen.**

Responsive Reading

Question 56. What is the third part of the Apostles' Creed?

"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."

Question 57. What do we believe when we confess our faith in the Holy Spirit?

We believe the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the triune God and is one with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit brooded over the waters of creation (Genesis 1:2), and gave life to all living things (Psalm 104:30); raised up and inspired leaders and prophets of Israel (Judges 6:34; Ezekiel 11:5); conceived Jesus Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:35); witnesses to Jesus Christ (John 15:26); convicts of sin (John 16:7-11) and enables us to confess him as Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3b). The Spirit is the counsellor who opens our hearts to Jesus Christ and the comforter who has been promised by him to be with us always, "leading us into all truth" (John 16:12).

Num 11:25, Lk 4:18-19,21, Jn 16:6,13

Question 58. When was the Holy Spirit given to the church?

The Holy Spirit was bestowed on the church on the day of Pentecost. Luke speaks of a strong driving wind and tongues like flames of fire to describe the experience of receiving the Spirit (Acts 2:2-3). The fainthearted disciples were given courage and power to understand and proclaim the gospel of salvation.

Acts 2:1-4, Joel 2:28, Acts 1:8,

Prayer for illumination

Living God,
 help us to hear your holy Word with open hearts
 so that we may truly understand;
 and, understanding,
 that we may believe;
 and, believing,
 that we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,
 seeking your honor and glory in all that we do.
 Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 11:1-13

11 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”² And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

**“Father, hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come.**

**³ Give us each day our daily bread,
⁴ and forgive us our sins,**

**for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
 And lead us not into temptation.”**

⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Children's Hymn Jesus Loves Me This I Know (Jesus Loves Me)

Jesus loves me
 This I know
 For the Bible tells me so
 Little ones to Him belong
 They are weak but He is strong

Yes Jesus loves me
 Yes Jesus loves me
 Yes Jesus loves me
 The Bible tells me so

Jesus loves me still today
 Walking with me on my way
 Wanting as a friend to give
 Light and love to all who live

Yes Jesus loves me
 Yes Jesus loves me
 Yes Jesus loves me
 The Bible tells me so

Sermon

Last week we spoke of clearing all of the white noise from our lives and spending time with God in relationship. Perhaps one of the most common ways that people know of doing this is through prayer. Prayer is a critical component of Christian Discipleship, and also one of the most difficult, people always feel uncomfortable when asked to pray publicly.

In the Jewish culture the disciples were surrounded by a strong prayer life. There was a custom of praying three times a day. This was based on the prophets; Abraham had introduced the morning prayers, the shacharit, Issac had introduced the afternoon prayers, the minchah, and Jacob had added the evening prayers, the arvith or maariv. Yet even though they were raised in this prayer culture they saw something very different in the prayer life of Jesus. In observing him pray they recognized both a difference in quality and quantity of prayer and they wanted to learn from him so they too could experience the same depth and richness of prayer that they witnessed in the Messiah. This fullness of prayer life is something they desired to bring into their own

faith. Which is why here in Luke they come to Jesus and ask, **‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’**

In the scripture Jesus shares an example, a template you could say of what prayer should be when he recites the Lord’s Prayer. That should be a comfort for all of us, and it should remind us that there is no right or wrong way to pray. Prayer is a continuous learning process. We will never perfect it because prayer is about our relationship with God, not about fulfilling a checklist or just repeating some lines we have memorized. Prayer is about spending time talking to and listening for God, not about getting our desires, or asking for the desires of others.

If you look at all of the examples of prayer that appear throughout the Bible, you will see they all are about that intimate relationship between God and his people. The fundamental core of true prayer is that it helps to transform our minds to the Lord’s will in our lives, to change our hearts into ones that do not seek for self, but instead seek to serve our Lord’s will here on earth, that causes our soul to repent from its sinful desires and instead instills in it a will to love the things our Lord loves.

Yet, this is not how many people pray in the modern world. Prayer is usually focused on receiving. People give God their laundry list of wants and needs in their lives. Prayer for most people is usually without much time spent in thought, in the spur of the moment and more focused on immediate needs than in the desire to nurture a relationship with God. Almost as if prayer were a secondary thought, a failsafe, something that people do ‘just in case.’

Think about your prayer life.

Have you ever been on the phone with someone, and they are obviously busy doing something else while chatting with you? You know that you do not have their full attention, and if it is a short conversation that is fine. However, if you are wanting to share something much more detailed or important, their lack of attention will bother you. In fact, many of us would usually tell them that we will call them back when they do not seem as busy.

How many of you are this person when you pray? We fool ourselves thinking that we can do other things at the same time as praying to God. We can wash the dishes and pray, be driving and pray, be at work or play and pray, we can always pray, but how often when we pray are we not fully engaged in our prayer.

Do not misunderstand me, we can and should be praying whenever we can, and we can pray and be distracted by other things in life, there is nothing wrong with that. That is the prayer life that the disciples were familiar with, lots of prayer and lots of distractions. What they are asking Jesus though is how do we get a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God through prayer.

In the scripture we are given many examples of Jesus's prayer life that the disciples had witnessed. They saw him rise early in the morning. In Mark 1:35 it says, ³⁵ "And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed."

Mark 1:35

35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Jesus, the Son of God, got up early in the morning so he could spend some quiet time alone with God. It is true we can exist with a busy prayer life, but the only way to reach the most intimate depths of a prayer life is by spending time alone and without the white noise of life interfering with our relationship with God. This is why many of the greatest Christian leaders throughout time have had powerful prayer lives. Martin Luther, George Fox, and John Wesley all would spend hours alone and in prayer and with God, seeking him in their lives and their ministries.

The truth is that in the modern world many of us do not have the hours that these men dedicated to spending in prayer each day. But do you have thirty minutes, how about twenty or even ten minutes each day that you could devote to deep prayer with God. If we want to have our lives transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit, we have to be willing to spend time talking to God and listening to the Holy Spirit, and not just on Sunday's during service.

The disciples had a prayer life that they had learned from the temples. They knew when and where to pray according to the religion, very much in the same manor we know when and where and even what to pray during Sunday service. This is why when the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, they are not seeking knowledge about the basics of prayer they are looking to learn the spiritual discipline of prayer and how it can be used to deepen their relationship with God.

We could spend hours delving into the Lord's prayer and all of the deep theology and meaning that is delivered within, and perhaps we will in the future. But for today I want to focus on another part of the scripture that teaches us about our personal prayer life.

Luke 11:9-10

⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Ask, Seek, Knock. These are the simple directions that Jesus gives us in our prayer life.

What is it that Jesus is telling us to ask? Are we simply to come to God with a list of things or is there a deeper meaning associated to the idea of asking?

Asking is more than requesting. When we ask for something, we first have to acknowledge that we are in need. We have to come before God and acknowledge our own needs, and the needs of those around us, and the needs of the world. We have to acknowledge that no matter how hard we work, how much we do, that we are not capable of fulfilling all of those needs. The first step of asking is acknowledging that we need God, we need His knowledge, His wisdom, His Strength, His Guidance in our lives and in the world.

All throughout history this acknowledgement has been shown in the way in which people pray. In the days of Jesus, it was common for people to lay flat upon the floor or ground and place their head against the floor with their arms outstretched before them. This was prostrating themselves before the Lord. A way to show that you were totally surrendered to Him and His mercies.

People would also sometimes kneel and place their head and face against the ground with their arms outstretched in front of them. Physically surrendering to God mercy, bearing their neck, one of the most vulnerable aspects of the human body to the one who they wanted to show great honour and worth. King Solomon and Job are both known to have prayed in this manner.

Other would raise their hands as they pray. Similar to how many raise their hands in praise. Their arms outstretched in front of them as if a child were reaching for a parent and asking to be picked up. Physically showing to God their desire and their need for His strength and His love as the Father. This pose was common in the times for prayers of praise and thanksgiving, and we see it in the Bible; Moses, Elijah and Jesus all pray in this way.

All forms of physical submission to God. In the modern church we see something different. Most often we see people seated, their heads bowed in quiet conversation with God. Some people walk while they pray, or jog, or drive or some other activity and it all differs so much from the way people prayed in the past.

In ancient times prayer focused on a physical display of surrender to the Lord. The body language of prayer reminded the person who was praying that they had surrendered themselves to God, it was an act of both commitment to God and declaring him their King of Kings. Being prostrate or kneeling in prayer, even with your arms outstretched to the heavens creates a sense of vulnerability and an admission that we are weak without God. Modern prayer forms seem to be more focused on comfort and reverence than on submission. Perhaps we should return to some of the old ways of praying in our personal prayer life.

Secondly Jesus is reminding us that when we ask, our God will be active in our lives. Prayer is the main way that we communicate with God in our lives. It is through our prayer time that our relationship with God is the most active. It is the time when we come to the realization of our need for God and submit ourselves to him, and when we are not praying, we will find our lives fill up with the white noise making it harder and harder for us to hear God. When we are unwilling to change our lives, prayer is often the first aspect of Faith to fall by the wayside, it does not mean that we never pray, but that we treat prayer as a spiritual add on, and not the spiritual necessity that it should be in our faith.

Throughout the scriptures we are given examples of the power of prayer and the difference it can make not only in our lives but in the world.

In Genesis chapter eighteen we see the story of how Abraham prayed for intercession for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. He sought a way for them to be saved because he believed they could be spared if there were just a few righteous people living within them. Moses prayed more than once to save the children of Israel from the divine judgement of God in his time as their leader. In the New Testament Paul calls on us to be prayerful workers with God in this world in our personal and public lives and ministry.

We have the stories of Elijah and the rain, Hezekiah and his terminal illness, Jonah, and the city of Nineveh. All stories that remind us of the power of prayer and how it can impact and change the world in which we are living. When we ask, we are not just sending a request through to God, we are volunteering to help God accomplish what we are asking for, we are signing up to be part of the process by which he answers our prayers. When we pray, we need to understand that the Lord may bring about anointings, miracles and revelations. We need to understand that we may be part of these things and that if we are praying for God's will to be done in our lives and in the lives of those around us that we may see our lives and the lives of those around us transformed by the work of God.

Think of the prayer life of Hannah in the Old Testament. Hannah is a barren woman, one who cannot have children, so she comes to the Prayer. When Eli finds her praying in the temple, he mistook her for a drunken woman. When he confronted her, she explained that she was pouring out her soul before the Lord. She was there in the temple, in the early morning, in her humility, passionately surrendering herself to the Lord and looking for his grace, mercy, love and power in her life.

The Lord answered her prayer. Hannah's prayers had a radical impact on not only her future but the future of all of the people of God. This barren woman bore a son, but not just any son, she bore Samuel, one of the greatest of the Judges. A key character in the salvation history of the Jewish people. Hannah acknowledged her desire and her inability to fulfill it without God. She humbled herself and boldly went to the temple, prostrated herself in prayer without regard for how other thought of her. Hannah believed that God could and would change her life, and He did.

So, when Jesus tells us to Ask, it means knowing that we should come to God like Hannah, aware of what it is we need and of our dependence on God for our blessings in life. Willing to humble ourselves and surrender to Him and His will, knowing that if our prayer is in accordance with His will that we may be used in the fulfillment of the prayer and that is what Jesus meant when he told the disciples to Seek. Prayer is not just passively done it requires us to have an active part in our prayer lives.

When we seek, we are telling God that we want to be changed, we want to be part of doing His will here on earth. It is Jesus's way of telling us that we play a very critical role in the spiritual discipline of prayer and faith building.

When we are young Christians, we often come before God the same way in which a child asks for something from their parent. When we think of or see something that we want we simply ask for it. Kids have no concept of costs; I remember once taking my niece to an amusement park in Korea. We spent a few hours there and had gone on many rides, had some food and treats and when she asked for something else, I told her that I had no money. Her response still sticks with me today, 'Well go buy more money.' Kids ask for everything they want because to them it is that simple. People who are young in their faith are the same, they ask for everything they want, and often like children they can get upset and frustrated when they do not get things exactly as they wanted.

Later as we mature in faith and in life, we learn new ways of asking for things because we begin to understand the value associated to them. We negotiate, we barter, we bargain, we seek out ways to get the things we desire. People also do this in Prayer,

they barter, they negotiate with God in hopes that he will answer their prayer. God if you give me this new car, I promise that I will never miss a worship service, if you give me a bigger house, I promise I will host a bible study.

In life there is a point though where we all realize that we need to go out to seek for and earn the things we want. We ask for help or assistance, but we seek out ways to fulfill those wants on our own. We ask for a ride to the store so that we can buy what we want with the money we have saved from gifts or earned from a job. We ask for a parent to co-sign a loan on a house or a car. Seeking is part of growing up in life and in prayer.

Christians know that there are things that we pray for which are beyond our control. We cannot pray for and then go out and make people believe in Christ. Salvation can only come through God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness. We cannot seek things that only God can provide like salvation.

However, Paul does tell in the book of Philippians that we can be an active participant in our spiritual formation and growth. When it comes to building a relationship with God and knowing his will we need to seek it out in our lives. We need to be willing to open our hearts, minds, and souls to his anointing and leading by the Holy Spirit.

We seek God by putting him first in our lives. By dedicating ourselves heart, mind, body, and soul to understanding His will and doing His work. We seek God by getting involved in His ministry here on earth, by spending time in prayer with Him, both alone and in fellowship. We seek God by learning about Him in service on Sunday, but also by pursuing to understand him better in bible studies both in fellowship with other Christians and alone. As we mature as Christians, we learn to seek out God's will for each of us in our lives.

In the book of Judges, we are presented with the story of Gideon, a man who was seeking to understand God's will in his life. He wanted to be sure he was correct in how he understood the Lord. Twice he laid a piece of wool fleece on the threshing house floor, the first-time telling God that if it was God's will he had heard that the wool should collect the dew and the floor to remain dry. The next morning when he awoke the floor was dry and he wrung a bowl of water out of the fleece. The next night he asked God to do the opposite and when he awoke the floor was soaked and the fleece was dry. Gideon was actively seeking out God's direction in his life. He was working with God to discover God's will in his life.

King David is another example of this in the Bible. He constantly shows us how to come before the Lord humbly and seeking His will to be done in our lives. The psalms are filled with David coming before God, seeking him and being ready and willing to have God show him and use him. David teaches us that we are to seek the Lord and be open and ready to receive what he shows us and what he calls for us to do.

When Jesus tells us to seek, he is reminding us that we need to be willing to discover and receive all that God may show us and that may mean that we come to find a whole new adventure in our lives as God utilizes us to do His will here on Earth.

In the New Testament this is displayed in the story of the woman at the well. She meets Jesus at the well and asks him many questions. She is seeking out the answers to what is going on in her own life, and when Jesus responds he cause her to come to a sudden revelation about her own sinful life, she is humbled before the Lord. She immediately changes the way she is living and becomes one of the first to proclaim the Lord Jesus to the gentiles when she returns to town.

We need to seek, to want to learn more about God and ourselves and to be willing to receive the revelations God gives us and act upon them with humility. When we seek God, he will be active in our lives.

Finally, we are told to knock. When someone knocks upon a door, they have made a commitment to see who is on the other side of that door. When we knock on a door, we do not know what to expect, we can have an idea of what may happen, but we can never be one hundred percent confident of what lies on the other side of the door. We do not always know if there is a person on the other side of the door, or a dog, or some other animal. We do not know what kind of mood that they may be in when we knock, if we are disturbing them or if we are saving them from boredom. We just have to knock on that door and hope for a positive result.

The same is true of the spiritual doors in our lives. We have to knock on them and know that we can never be one hundred percent confident of what is on the other side. We have to be open and willing to accept whatever it is that God has planned for us. When we knock, we are placing our faith in God, saying that we know he is ultimately in control of everything and that whatever lies on the other side of this we know that he will provide us everything we need with which to accomplish His will.

In the instance of prayer this is us humbling ourselves and being ready and willing to receive whatever blessings and challenges God may choose to place in our path of discipleship.

It also means that we need to be willing to step through the door, to enter into new areas of our lives, to change the person we were into the person that God wants us to become. We also need to know and accept that sometimes as we knock on these doors and pass through them on our spiritual journey that they may close behind us, and we may need to say goodbye to things in our lives that might be holding us back in our spiritual journey.

Jesus is telling the disciples and us that if we really want a deeper and more meaningful prayer life that we need to ask, seek, and knock. If we are willing to do these things then God will provide for us, protect us, and lead us into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Him. This why he finishes by asking who would give his son a serpent when he asks for a fish, or a scorpion when he asks for an egg. God will never lead us down a path of utter desolation and destruction. God always has a plan, and he will never place us anywhere where our enteral life is at risk, we may go into places where life on this planet is at risk, but we can always be assured that our eternal life is safely held in His grasp.

God's plan is always to give us the best gift possible, in fact the greatest of all gifts, life eternal and that comes through our relationship with Him. Which means that we may face difficulties, and trials and tribulations in our life and in our spiritual life. The Bible tells us we will face challenges and struggles. However, the Bible is always filled with examples of how God provided the way of escape or endurance for his people to make it through those times.

In prayer let us all learn to:

Ask - Acknowledge our weaknesses. Humbly come before our God in faith and know that he will answer our prayers according to His will.

Seek - Commit to seek him out each and every day, let him lead us to new adventures, let him work with us and through us to do His will here on Earth

Knock - And be ready to receive all that he has on the other side of the door, whether it is a blessing or a challenge. Knock knowing full well that anything could be on the other side of the door and be ready to step through it and sometimes have it close off on old areas and aspects of our lives as we grow in spiritual maturity and our connection and relationship with our God.

Let us Pray,

We Seek Our Comfort Only in Your Mercy

Lord God, heavenly Father,
 guide and direct us by your Holy Spirit,
 that we may not forget our sins and be filled with pride,
 but continue in daily repentance and renewal,
 seeking our comfort only
 in the blessed knowledge
 that you will be merciful to us,
 forgive us our sins
 and grant us eternal life;
 through your beloved Son,
 Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.

Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Trinity 11

Invitation to Offering

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. Please note the email address for this purpose only. standrewspertthoffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Missions, Outreach) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, you have given us life,
 a place to live in,
 and people to live with.
 Open our eyes to each other

and to all our brothers and sisters,
 especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated.
 Make us humble enough to help and comfort them,
 so that your love and justice and peace may come to them.
 We make bold to consecrate ourselves and our gifts
 to you and to the service of others,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn Fight The Good Fight

Fight the good fight
 With all your might
 Christ is your strength
 And Christ your right
 Lay hold on life
 And it shall be
 Your joy and crown eternally

Cast care aside
 Lean on your guide
 His boundless mercy will provide
 Trust, and your trusting soul
 Shall prove Christ is its life
 And Christ its love

Pastoral Prayer

O Lord, we praise you with all our soul.
 We praise you for the abundance of grace and mercy
 that we unconsciously receive from you in so many different ways.
 You overlook our iniquities.
 You bring us back to good health.
 You save us from evil and inundate us with your love and compassion.
 Lord, you provide nourishment and rejuvenation
 to our bodies, minds, and souls.
 We also know, Lord, that through you,
 there will be justice for the suffering of your people.
 Thank you for graciously revealing yourself
 to your children so long ago,
 that we might have the privilege of knowing your will.
 We are only deserving of eternal death as a result of our evil ways.

However, rather than eternally condemning your children in anger,
you bestow your unconditional and boundless love on us.
Through your incomprehensible love for us,
you free us completely from the price of our transgressions.
We cherish your compassion
just as a child cherishes the compassion of loving parents.
We know that, without your compassion,
we would be reduced to nothing but dust on this material planet,
alive and growing one day,
then dead and blown away with the wind the next,
fading away even from human memories forever.
Because of your compassion, Lord, we are allowed a life of eternity;
a gift that you have promised even to future God-fearing generations.
Help us and all future generations to hold tightly
to your precious covenant through obedience to your will.
Lord, from your mighty throne you rule over us all.
We call the cherubim that surround you, the seraphim that serve you,
and every believer in your domain to join our souls
in praising your holy name! Amen.

Benediction

May our Lord Jesus Christ,
the one who came with grace and truth,
also fill your hearts with grace and truth,
as you serve him in the days ahead.
And may the joy of the Lord—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
be your strength. Amen