

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, October 26th, 2025
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Take Heart
Proper 25
John 16:5-33

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

O Lord, our Lord,
there are many places we could go this morning,
but we have desired to come to your house.

There are many voices to which we can listen today,
but we desire to hear your voice.

It would be easy to scatter,
but we have chosen to gather.

We need to behold your beauty,
to inquire in your temple,

to be wrapped in your love,
and to experience your renewing Spirit.

Come close, Lord Jesus,
to fill us and renew us. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Ever present God,
we thank you for calling us to meet with you today.
We praise you for coming to us long before we first came to you,
for knowing who would be here today,
and for knowing even our motives for coming.
By your Spirit lead and guide us during this service,
to help us hear you when you speak

and to guide our responses with hearts and voices
that rejoice in your presence. **Amen.**

Children's Video: "Everlasting God"

Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

You created human beings with gifts of intelligence and imagination.
Yet we confess we often use these gifts to exploit your creation
and put others in their place.
So often we think that we are great when we are small.
Or we claim smallness when you set a challenge before us.
We convince ourselves that our sin is not nearly as great as others,
yet, every sin offends your purpose for us.
Forgive us, we pray,
and grant us a truer picture of ourselves.

Assurance of Pardon

Christ has promised that those who humble themselves will be exalted.
Having confessed our sin, let us trust the good news of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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.**

Hymn: "In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
 What heights of love, what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
 My Comforter, my All in All
 Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to save
 'Til on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live, I live.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
 This is the power of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No power of hell, no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 Till He returns or calls me home
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:49-56

⁴⁹ Remember your word to your servant,
 in which you have made me hope.

⁵⁰ **This is my comfort in my affliction,
 that your promise gives me life.**

⁵¹ The insolent utterly deride me,
 but I do not turn away from your law.

⁵² **When I think of your rules from of old,
 I take comfort, O Lord.**

⁵³ Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,
 who forsake your law.

⁵⁴ **Your statutes have been my songs
 in the house of my sojourning.**

⁵⁵ I remember your name in the night, O Lord,
and keep your law.

⁵⁶ This blessing has fallen to me,
that I have kept your precepts.

Anthem (Music Ministry): “O Lord Most Holy”

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 16:5-33

⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶ “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷ So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸ So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my

name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.

²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!

³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Sermon

We are continuing in our study of the conversation that is happening in the upper room on the night of Jesus's arrest.

Jesus has told the disciples that one of them will betray him, and Judas has already left to do so.

Jesus has also told them that he is leaving, and they are struggling to understand not only what he is saying, but also with the instructions that he is giving them so that they may continue in ministry after he leaves them.

Last week, he had told them to expect the persecution of the world when he was gone, to expect trial and troubles if they are living their lives according to God's Word because the Scripture goes against the nature of the culture.

Jesus also tells them that as long as they abide in him, even in the most chaotic times, even in the most troubling times, even in the most challenging times, they will find the peace and joy of knowing God is with them, through the power of the Holy Spirit that will be in them.

The disciples are wrestling to understand everything that is happening, especially the idea that Jesus is going somewhere that they cannot go with him. This causes them to be saddened, so Jesus explains the importance of His going away.

John 16: 5-7

⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

Jesus understands their sorrow, however he cannot leave them to wallow in their sadness, instead he tries to explain the importance of his leaving them.

Jesus starts by telling the disciples that it is to their advantage that he leaves them.

Doesn't this sound like one of those bad breakups where one side tells the other it's not you, it's me. 'Trust me, it's better for you that we break up!'

We all know that it does not feel better. I am sure the disciples were feeling the same way, Jesus's leaving did not feel any better just because he said it was going to be better.

However, what Jesus is trying to get them to understand is that even though all of his worldly ministry was coming to an end, there would be no more great teachings, no more healings, no more feeding of the masses, and even though he would be arrested, mocked, tortured, nailed to a cross to die with two known criminals as his associates in death, it was to their advantage!

It was to their advantage, because it was a necessary step for Jesus to be able to send the Holy Spirit to them.

I want you all to think about this for a moment, because these are very powerful words that Jesus is speaking here.

Jesus being taken away from the disciples was a major thing. Their personal and direct relationship with the living God was coming to an abrupt ending. They would no longer have Jesus walking alongside them.

Could you image what it would have been like to walk alongside Jesus, to hear His teachings and witness His miracles?

Could you imagine if Jesus was alive today and we could get him to come to Perth to preach one day? The church would be packed; people would be lined up all around the building. Everyone in Perth and probably from all the surrounding towns would show up here to try to get a chance to hear Him.

How could anything be greater than that?

However, what would the next Sunday be like? Probably not nearly as busy, because Jesus was no longer here. Everyone would go back to their own little church and remember the one time that they had seen Jesus.

Jesus's leaving meant he could send the Holy Spirit to be with all his people! His presence both surrounds them and lives within them every moment of their lives.

In the world today there are millions of Christians gathering to worship God, and Jesus's presence is in every one of those people, because of the Holy Spirit, which could only be sent because Jesus carried out the will of the Father.

So, losing the physical presence of Jesus in the lives of the disciples was a terrible blow for them, and it seemed to be the end of their ministry to them, because they still did not understand what the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives would mean to them.

John 16: 8-11

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The Holy Spirit will come and do God's work. The Holy Spirit will be present in the world and be present in the lives of true believers.

Do you get that, the Holy Spirit is there in the life of every single believer living within them. If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit is alive in you, and you should feel the influence of the Holy Spirit in your life. If you are faithful, you have the Holy Spirit, the only question is how much of you the Holy Spirit has, does it have you whole being, your whole heart, or are you resisting and fighting against it so that you can still live a worldly life pursuing your own selfishness and pleasure.

The Holy Spirit is doing His work in every Christian helping them to abide in Christ, doing the lifting up and pruning, but the Holy Spirit is also present in the lives of unbelievers.

On the day of Pentecost that is described in the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit's presence in the world is made known to us. The crowds of people who had gathered were convicted of their sin, the word 'convicted' has more than just a legal meaning in Greek, it means to expose, to refute and to convince. Those people that were gathered and heard the Word of God faithfully

proclaimed had their sins exposed to them, and they were convinced that they needed to change, to remove their sin from their lives.

That is the work of the Holy Spirit in this world. The Holy Spirit goes among the people of the world, the unbelievers, and convicts them of their sin. Convicts them of their need for Jesus Christ in their lives.

For many people there is a day in their lives where they came to a sudden realization that they need Jesus Christ. They may have been going to church for years. They may have been studying the Bible for decades, they may have called themselves Christians their entire lives, and then one day, suddenly, they come to the realization that they have not been living a life that is abiding in Christ, they have not been loving Jesus and obeying his commands as they are called to do, they realize that they have been following their own version of the Scriptures, modifying it, ignoring it, and picking and choosing their way through it. Then suddenly one day, hearing the Word of God, they are convicted that they are sinners, that the sin that they always tried to explain away or make and excuse for was indeed a sin, and they fully come to God through the conviction of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

It's kind of like that safety lecture that the flight attendant gives you on the plane before take-off. Everyone is there and they tell us all to pay attention and listen, and none of us do, we are busy getting settled in and making ourselves comfortable. No one is paying attention to the instructions about seat belts, flotation devices and floor lighting.

However, if we are up in the air and we hit bad turbulence, the plane is being bounced around and the pilot comes on and says that they need to make an emergency landing, suddenly we are a lot more attentive to the safety lecture. We are hanging on every word, because we know it has a direct bearing on our survival.

Sometimes people get that sudden realization that their eternal life is in danger, and through the conviction of the Holy Spirit they begin to hang on every syllable of God's Word. They begin to understand that they need Him in a way that they never thought they did.

When the Holy Spirit is doing its work, it convicts people of their sin and convinces them of their need to repent, to change the way that they live and fall on their knees before Jesus Christ, seeking his presence in their lives.

J. Edwin Orr wrote about the revival of Christianity in the 1860's a time when many people already considered themselves to be Christian.

'Those of you who are ease have little conception of how terrifying a sight it is when the Holy Spirit is pleased to open a man's eyes to see the real state of heart. Men who

were thought to be, and who thought themselves to be good, religious people... have been led to search into the foundation upon which they were resting, and have found all rotten, that they were self-satisfied, resting on their own goodness, and not upon Christ. Many turned from open sin to lives of holiness, some weeping for joy for sins forgiven.’ - J. Edwin Orr, *The Second Evangelical Awakening in Britain*

This is a change that happened in people who believed that they were Christian, the Holy Spirit did its work in them. This is something that we should be praying for every day, that the Holy Spirit would open the eyes of the people of this world to their sins and their need of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus called the Holy Spirit, in Greek it is ‘paraclete’, the helper earlier He spoke of him as an ‘advocate’, someone who speaks on behalf of the accused, for the believers, and here he speaks of the Holy Spirit as the ‘prosecutor’ for those who reject Jesus Christ in their lives.

Which would you rather have, The Holy Spirit as your defense attorney or your prosecutor?

By the way, the Holy Spirit never loses a case. If he is your defense attorney, you cannot lose and if he is your prosecutor you cannot win.

And the only difference between the two is where you abide, in Christ or in the world.

Jesus then continues.

John 16: 12-15

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Jesus says ‘I am still not done teaching you, the Holy Spirit will come and finish teaching you’.

If only there was a copy of all the teaching of the Holy Spirit, of God. If only someone wrote down all the teachings of God in a single place so that we could learn.

Could you imagine having all the truth and teachings of God in a single book that you could read?

Jesus is speaking of the completion of the New Testament, the writings of Paul, John, James and Peter. All the writings that would come through the influence of the Holy Spirit, all the teachings that would be explained for us to better understand them in His Holy Word.

The entire Bible, all the Scripture is the Word of God, and we are expected to honor, obey and abide in it all, from the first word of Genesis to the last word of Revelation in our lives

Jesus explains that there will be a continuity in the teachings of the Holy Spirit, that the teachings of the Holy Spirit would focus on Jesus. If you want to know if the Holy Spirit is speaking to someone, if the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, it is simple, is it speaking about Jesus?

Is it aligned with the Scripture?

If you think the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and it does not align with the teachings of Jesus Christ, if it does not align with the Word of God, it is not the Holy Spirit that is speaking to you.

Jesus told all of us that when the Holy Spirit speaks it will of Jesus.

John 16: 16-18

¹⁶ "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷ So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸ So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about."

The disciples are confused. They cannot understand that Jesus will be dead and in the tomb and they will not see him. That they will be reunited with Him after His resurrection, and that they will lose sight of Him once again on His ascension into Heaven to be with the Father.

John 16: 19-22

¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'?" ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you

Jesus knew that they were wrestling to understand what was coming, so he tries to help them come to a realization of what is to come.

He knew that they would be plunged into a great sorrow, he knew his death would cause them sadness, but that in the end when everything had been done that their sorrow would become joy.

He knew that in just a few hours they would see Jesus arrested, that they would witness his trial, his persecution, his rejection, his disgrace, his crucifixion and his burial, and this would bring them great sorrow. Jesus knew that they would scatter, protecting their own self-interests, abandoning him and the shame and guilt that they would feel. He knows it was all coming for them, in fact it was almost upon them.

He knew that even though they would be filled with sorrow, shame and guilt, that that sorrow would be turned into joy.

Do you see what Jesus is saying here? He did not say that he would remove their sorrow and replace it with Joy. He said 'I will take your sorrow and change it into joy'.

Jesus would take the crucifixion, the thing which brought them so much sorrow, shame and guilt and turn it into something that brings them great joy in their lives once they fully understood what it meant.

Look at the writings of Paul and the other New Testament writers, do they ever feel sorrow over the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. No, they always celebrate the crucifixion, it is a joyful thing because of what it did for all of mankind.

And if Jesus can take his crucifixion and make it something joyful, shouldn't he be able to do the same in our lives. Jesus can take the things in our life which cause us sorrow, shame and guilt and turn them into joy because when we turn to God, when we allow the Holy Spirit to do his work in us, when we abide in Christ, we let God be at work in our lives we can overcome those things which separate us from God and begin to live lives that are a little more like Jesus in this world with His joy and His peace.

John 16: 23-27

.²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.

²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

Jesus is telling the disciples, when it is all done, when I have died upon the cross, when I have been placed in the tomb, when I have descended to the dead, when I have been resurrected and then ascended into heaven, when the Holy Spirit comes to you, I will be there as your mediator in Heaven and God will answer your prayers.

Jesus says God will answer your prayers because the Father himself loves you. The Father Himself loves you!

For those out there in the world who deny the Old Testament, for those people who try to separate the God of the Old Testament from Jesus Christ, this should be a wake-up call.

God the Father loves you. God the Son loves you. God the Holy Spirit Loves you!

The trinity has always been and will always be, you cannot pick and choose your God and your Scripture.

Jesus then continues.

John 16: 28-32

²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!

³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.

Jesus is winding down his teaching. He is going to speak plainly and if you look at just verse twenty-eight you can see an entire summary of Jesus's work in the Scripture, **²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."**

Jesus was in heaven, eternal and he came into this world in human form. He will leave the world in his death and return to heaven. In that single verse you have the entire life of Jesus Christ described.

And the disciples get it, they finally think they understand, but the truth is they really don't quite get it.

Jesus tells them that they think they fully understand, but the truth is that they will scatter, they will abandon him. They say that they believe that they fully understand that he is God right there in that moment, in that space. However, Jesus knows that their faith is going to be tested, that they will have to face the choice of obedience to Jesus or self-preservation in just a few hours, and that they will all choose self-preservation when they face that choice.

Jesus knew that they would fail, but not to worry, for even though they scatter, the Father's work is still being done.

Jesus then has one more thing to say, one final blessing to give his disciples.

John 16: 33

³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Jesus looks into the eyes of the men who have walked with him for three years. He looks upon the men to whom he has just explained what is to come. He looks upon the men to whom he has explained the importance of their faith, their obedience, their love for God and for one another, their call to abide in him and he says, **'in me you may have peace.'**

Jesus knew that they would be in emotional turmoil in just a few hours, and he is telling them that if they trust in him, they will have peace.

Jesus offers peace to the disciples who are about to face the greatest challenge of their lives, the same way he offers everyone of us peace in our lives. We all can have peace in our lives, in trials, in tribulations, in troubles, in chaos and in persecution. We can have peace, as long as we look for it in Jesus Christ.

There is no peace in our finances, in our jobs, in our relationships with family, with friends, with co-workers. There is no peace in this world except in Jesus Christ.

The world is filled with tribulation, but there is peace in Jesus because he has overcome the world.

Do you understand what Jesus is saying here?

Tribulation is a guarantee in this world, everyone will face trials, everyone will undergo times of trouble. It is a guarantee. And if you come to him, if you give yourself over to him, you will have peace in all things.

Jesus promises tribulation and offers peace.

So, Christians take heart.

Jesus is on his way to the cross and he is telling the disciples to take heart; he has overcome the world.

You can find peace in this world because Jesus has overcome the world.

If you read through the book of Revelation there is one important lesson, Jesus wins, Jesus has already won, Satan has already been defeated. That is all that matters, Jesus wins, and we are called to take heart in that and live everyday of our lives with peace in our hearts because the final battle is already won, our eternal place in His kingdom is already reserved.

No matter what happens, no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, no matter how much tribulation we face, no matter what kind of persecution we face, Jesus has overcome the world. Jesus has won, and our salvation is secured.

Jesus has overcome the world, so we do not have to, we just need to trust in him and let His victory be applied to our lives. We just need to love him first in our lives, we just need to abide in him, we just need to give up our selfishness, give up our pride and trust in God as we walk as the Salt and Light of God's Word in this dark and broken world.

Let us pray,

Work in Us True Obedience

Almighty, eternal, and righteous God,
we humbly thank you
for revealing your divine will to us
in your law
about what we should do
and what we should avoid.

We also humbly pray, for Christ's sake,
that you would work in us true obedience,
graciously forgive us all our sins of negligence,
and strengthen and lead us
by your Holy Spirit
that we begin to serve you
in new obedience here,
until we come to complete holiness

before you in that life to come;
 through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
 Amen.

Source: Attributed to Martin Luther, found in Allgemeines evangelisches Gesang- und Gebetbuch zum Kirchen und Hausgebrauch, Hamburg, 1846, p. 436#1.

Hymn: “10,000 Reasons”

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before O my soul
 I’ll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it’s a new day dawning
 It’s time to sing Your song again
 Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
 Let me be singing when the evening comes. (Chorus)

You’re rich in love and You’re slow to anger
 Your name is great and Your heart is kind
 For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
 Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (Chorus)

And on that day when my strength is failing
 The end draws near and my time has come
 Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
 Ten thousand years and then forevermore. (Chorus)

Invitation to Offering

Offering Prayer

Closing Hymn: “Psalm 8”

When I look at your heavens
 The moon and stars you set in motion, oh God
 I sing all glory and honor
 What is man that you are mindful

The son of man that you would care for him
We sing all glory and honor.

(Chorus)

Oh Lord, our Lord
Oh, how awesome are Your ways
How majestic is your name in all the earth
Oh Lord, our Lord
May we see Your kingdom come
Father, may Your will be done in all the earth.

In all the earth
You gave dominion to your children
And You crowned them, oh God
With glory and honor
So we'll sing of Your name
Live our lives for Your greatness, oh God
And Your glory and honor. (Chorus)

The earth is full of the glory of God
Come make much of the name above all names
Creation cries out and every knee bows
Jesus, we crown You, oh Lord, our Lord.

The earth is full of the glory of God
Come make much of the name above all names
Creation cries out and every knee bows
Jesus, we crown You, oh Lord, our Lord. (Chorus)

Pastoral Prayer

Almighty God,
be gracious to us and bless us
and make your face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Empower all the peoples to praise you, O God,
that the nations may be glad and sing for joy.
For you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Enable all the peoples to praise you, O God,

for the earth has yielded its increase
and you, our God, have blessed us.
We ask that you will continue to bless us
so that all the ends of the earth will revere you. **Amen.**

Benediction

May you, people of God, know that
God our Father made you and guides your every step;
Jesus Christ gave his life for you and brings you new life;
the Spirit keeps you in the Lord's presence and empowers you to serve.
May almighty God continue to bless you and move you to give thanks. **Amen.**