

Exalted Worship: So Great a Salvation In Two Sessions

Session One

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Venite

O come let us sing unto the Lord
Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
And make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God
And a great King above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
The strength of the hills is His also
The sea is His, and He made it;
And His hands formed the dry land.
Oh, come let us worship and bow down;
Let us 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.
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. (Ancient Liturgy Based on Psalm 95)

Scripture: Who is God?

The LORD is righteous;
he loves righteous deeds;
the upright shall behold his face. (Psalm 11:7)

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name. (Psalm 30:4)

Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.
You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you? (Psalm 71:19)

Exalt the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy! (Psalm 99:9)

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy vs.1, 2, 3, 4.

1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Which
wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and
sea. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in Three
Persons, blessed Trinity! (Reginald Heber, 1826)

Prayer: Confession of Sins

What is man that you are mindful of him, O Lord?
For, man is but grass withering and perishing.
Man is but a mist, a vapor that appears for a little time
then vanishes. Man is but dust, dust mingled with sin.

Sin dwells in me and I dwell in sin. I was born in sin and
in sin I have made my home. Every intention of my heart
is evil. All of my righteousness is wickedness.

My throat is an open graves; I use my tongue to deceive.
The venom of asps is under my lips. My mouth is full of
bitterness and cursing. I am swift to shed blood. My path
is ruin and misery. The way of peace I do not know.
(Man a Sinner, a Wretch)

Hymn: With holy fear, and humble song

Far in the deep where darkness dwells,
The land of horror and despair,
Justice has built a dismal hell,
And laid her stores of vengeance there.

There guilty ghosts of Adam's race
Shriek out, and howl beneath thy rod
Once they could scorn a Savior's grace,

But they incensed a dreadful God.
Tremble, my soul, and kiss the Son;
Sinners, obey the Savior's call;
Else your damnation hastens on,
And hell gapes wide to wait your fall. (Isaac Watts, 1850)

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Prayer: Confession of Sins

O Merciful Lord,

I confess all of my sins. Sins of this day, week, year, all the sins of my life, sins of early, middle, and advanced years, sins of omission and commission, of my angry tempers, of lip, life and walk, of hard-heartedness, unbelief, presumption, pride, of unfaithfulness to the souls of men, of lack of bold decision in the cause of Christ, of deficiency in outspoken zeal for His glory, of bringing dishonor upon Your great name, of deception, injustice, untruthfulness, in my dealings with others and you of impurity in thought, word and deed, of covetousness, which is idolatry, of substance unduly hoarded, improvidently squandered, not consecrated to the glory of You, the Great Giver; sins in private and in the family, in study and recreation, in the busy activities of men, in the study of Your Word and in the neglect of it, in prayer irreverently offered and coldly withheld, in time misspent, in yielding to Satan's wiles in opening my heart to his temptations, in being unwatchful when I know him near, in quenching the Holy Spirit; sins against light and knowledge, against conscience and restraints of Your Spirit, against the law of eternal love.

O God Pardon all my sins, known and unknown, felt and unfelt, confessed and not confessed, remembered or forgotten. Merciful Lord, hear my cry; and hearing, have mercy on me. (Confession of Sin, The Valley of Vision)

Agnus Dei

1. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us!

2. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us!

3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace! Amen. (Ancient Liturgy, Based on John 1:29)

Prayer: Adoration

Blessed Jesus, let me find a hiding place in your healing wounds.

Though my sins rise to heaven your merits soar above them; though unrighteousness weighs me down to hell, your righteousness exalts me to your throne. All things in me call for my rejection; all things in you plead my

acceptance. I appeal from the throne of perfect justice to your throne of boundless grace. (A Prayer of Broken Heart, The Valley of Vision)

Hymn: Stricken Smitten and Afflicted, vs.1, 2, 3, 4

1. Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He! 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

2. Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

3. Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the Sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the WORD, the LORD'S ANOINTED,
Son of Man and Son of God.

4. Here we have a firm foundation;
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the Rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built. (Thomas Kelly, 1804)

Scripture: Praise and Thanksgiving

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (Psalm 100:4)

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!(Rev. 7:12)

I give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, and always will be. Amen (Rev. 11:17)

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Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with thankful voice,
Him serve with fear, His praise forthtell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

4. For why? The Lord, our God, is good;
His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure.

5. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
To God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore. (William Kethe, 1561)

Prayer: Thanksgiving

I thank you, O God, because you give me all good things, because you alleviate and take away the chastisement I justly deserve, because you bestow upon me all the blessings of soul and body. To you be all glory, honor, praise, and thanksgiving, forever and ever. (All Good Things, Philip Melancthon, 1559)

We join heaven's chorus and proclaim: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." (Meditation on Revelation 5, a Wretch)

Hymn: All Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1. All praise to God, who reigns above,
The God of all creation,
The God of wonders, power, and love,
The God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul He fills,
The God who every sorrow stills,--
To God all praise and glory!

2. What God's almighty power hath made
His gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning dawn or evening shade
His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of His might

Lo, all is just and all is right,--
To God all praise and glory!

3. I cried to Him in time of need:
Lord God, oh, hear my calling!
For death He gave me life indeed
And kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be;
Oh, thank Him, thank our God, with me,--
To God all praise and glory!

5. Ye who confess Christ's holy name,
To God give praise and glory!
Ye who the Father's power proclaim,
To God give praise and glory!
All idols under foot be trod,
The Lord is God! The Lord is God!
To God all praise and glory! (Johann Schultz, 1675)

Praise for So Great a Salvation

Give all praise, honor and glory to God. For, "we are justified by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.' How can I ever thank you for so great a salvation? (Meditation on Romans 3:24-26, a Wretch)

Hymn: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

1. A Hymn of glory let us sing: New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascendeth to the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6. Be Thou our Joy and strong Defense Who art our future Recompense:
Alleluia! Alleluia! So shall the light that springs from Thee
Be ours through all eternity.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

7. O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to Thee let earth accord,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Who art, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (The Venerable Bede, 735)

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Closing Prayer

Now, turn me, Lord, and I shall be turned! Draw me and I shall run after You! Make every thought, and affection, and feeling, and temper--be brought into captivity to the obedience of Jesus. May I love what He loves, and hate what He hates.

Make me know the happiness of true holiness; and rejoice in doing Your holy will: motivated by so great a salvation. (Your Holy Will, a Wretch)

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant, depart in peace according to Thy Word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to lighten the gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. 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. (Ancient Liturgy Based on Luke 2:29-32)

Benediction

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Session Two

Invocation

Almighty God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, I am seeking the privilege of your presence. In the name of Jesus, receive me that I may worship you. Forgive me, for I have sinned. Feed me, for I hunger. Look upon me with mercy that I may live.

Clothed in robes of perfect righteousness purchased by your Son, I approach your throne. Lord do not cast me from your presence but receive me. Do not treat me according to my sins but according to your unfailing love.

Hear my prayers, forgive my sins, and receive my worship all in the name of your precious Son. Amen. (Receive Me, a Wretch)

Hymn: God Himself Is Present

1. God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple--
All within keep silence,
Prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone God we own,
Him, our God and Savior;
Praise His name forever.

2. God Himself is present:
Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding!
"Holy, holy, holy"--
Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Thine ear To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Thy Church now raises. (Gerhard Tersteegen, 1729)

Confession of Faith: What is God?

God is a Spirit, in and of Himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. (Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 7)

Hymn: From All that Dwell below the Skies

1. From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! (Isaac Watts, 1719)

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Prayer: Confession of Sins

In me there is nothing lovely, no splendor, no beauty.
In me there is nothing to commend us to you, no
righteousness, no goodness, no merit.

From me you receive nothing, no benefit, no pleasure.
From me you receive nothing, no praise, no honor, no
exaltation.

I am all together worthless. (In Me Nothing Lovely, a
Wretch)

Hymn: With God Is Terrible Majesty

Terrible God, that reign'st on high,
How awful is thy thund'ring hand!
Thy fiery bolts, how fierce they fly!
Nor can all earth or hell withstand.

This Sodom felt, and feels it still,
And roars beneath th' eternal load:
"With endless burnings who can dwell?
Or bear the fury of a God?"

Tremble, ye sinners, and submit,
Throw down your arms before his throne;
Bend your heads low beneath his feet,
Or his strong hand shall crush you down. (Isaac Watts,
1707)

Prayer: Confession of Sins

Almighty God, I am unworthy to come into your
presence, because of my many sins. I do not deserve any
grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with me as I
deserve. I have sinned against you, O Lord, and I have
offended you. And yet, O Lord, as I acknowledge my sins
and offenses, so also do I acknowledge you to be a
merciful God, a loving Father, to all who turn to you. And
so I humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your Son, to
show mercy to me, and forgive me all of my offenses.
Forgive the sins of my youth, and the sins of my old age.
By your Spirit, O God, take possession of my heart, so
that, not only the actions of my life, but also the words of
my mouth, and the smallest thought of my mind, may be
guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ my
Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor
and glory, now and forever. Amen. (I Have Sinned,
John Knox)

The Kyrie

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us. (Ancient Liturgy Based on
Luke 18:10-14)

Prayer: Confession of Sins

Let me hear your voice assuring me: That by your stripes
I am healed, that you were bruised for my iniquities, that
thou have been made sin for me that I might be righteous
in you, that my grievous sins, my manifold sins, are all
forgiven, buried in the ocean of your concealing blood.

I am guilty, but pardoned, lost, but saved, wandering, but
found, sinning, but cleansed. Give me perpetual broken-
heartedness; keep me always clinging to the cross. (The
Broken Heart, the Valley of Vision)

Hymn: O Sacred Head Now Wounded vs. 1, 2, 4, 8

1. O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

2. Men mock and taunt and jeer Thee,
Thou noble countenance,
Though mighty worlds shall fear Thee
And flee before Thy glance.
How art thou pale with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy visage languish
That once was bright as morn!

4. My burden in Thy Passion,
Lord, Thou hast borne for me,
For it was my transgression
Which brought this woe on thee.
I cast me down before Thee,
Wrath were my rightful lot;
Have mercy, I implore Thee;
Redeemer, spurn me not!

8. What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this, Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever!

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And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee. (Bernard of Clairvaux, 1153)

Scripture: Confession of Sins

If I say I have no sin, I deceive myself, and the truth is not in me. If I confess my sins, He is faithful and just to forgive my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. If I say I have not sinned, I make him a liar, and his word is not in me. (1 John 1:8-10)

Hymn: Come Ye Sinners

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and pow'r.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.

Come, ye weary, heavy-laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.

Lo! th' incarnate God ascended,
Pleads the merit of His blood:
Venture on Him, venture wholly,
Let no other trust intrude. (Joseph Hart, 1759)

Prayer: Thanksgiving

I give thanks to you, omnipotent, ever living God of truth, eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of heaven and earth, of men, and of all creature, Sustainer of all things, Giver of all life, order, and wisdom, unfailing Source of help: And to your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, your Word and eternal Image: And to thy Holy Spirit, with whom you endowed the apostles at Pentecost. I give thanks to you, O God of holiness, and truth, wisdom and goodness, justice and mercy, purity and loving-kindness, for with goodness and wisdom unmatched you revealed yourself to me, sending your Son into the world, destined

to assume human nature and to become a sacrifice for me. (Thanksgiving to the Eternal, Phillip Melancthon)

Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven:
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore!
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore (Martin Rinkart, 1663)

Scripture: Praise and Adoration

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear
him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
(Psalm 103:8-13)

Hymn: Praise to the Lord

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is Thy Health and
Salvation! Join the full throng: Wake, harp and psalter
and song; Sound forth in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously
reigneth, Who, as on wings of an eagle, uplifteth,
sustaineth. Hast thou not seen How thy desires all have
been Granted in what He ordaineth?

4. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and
defend thee, Who from the heavens the streams of His
mercy doth send thee. Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do, Who with His love doth
befriend thee.

5. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises
before Him!

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Let the Amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him. (Joachim Neander, 1679)

Prayer: Joy

O Eternal, Everlasting God, Fountain of all happiness, God of all grace--You have made my cup to overflow with joy. You are my Lord, my rock, my fortress, my redeemer, my sanctifier and my deliverer. No earthly friend could have loved me and cared for me, like You!

Hide me in the clefts of the Rock. Safely sheltered there, I can make the triumphant challenge, "Who shall separate me from the love of Christ?" (Hidden in Christ, a Wretch)

Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all. (Edward Perronet, 1779)

Closing Prayer

Lord, you are our treasure, our comfort, our only hope. You have redeemed us from our curse. You have delivered us from our enemies. You have saved us from destruction, ruin and misery. Therefore, we praise you and bless your holy name O God, our Redeemer, our Deliverer, and our Savior. You are great and greatly to be praised. You are our God and our hope.

And so we close offering our thanks to you, gracious Creator, Redeemer, and Father: for calling us to and justifying us in Your Son, for sealing and sanctifying us by Your Holy Spirit. May you always be our God and may we always be your people. Amen. (The Lord our Treasure, a Wretch)

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant, depart in peace according to Thy Word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast Prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to lighten the gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. 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. (Ancient Liturgy Based on Luke 2:29-32)

Benediction

May the rich blessing of the Lord attend you. May the Lord graciously protect you from all evil and mercifully preserve and keep you in all good, and May He who created and redeemed you preserve you for Himself unspotted to the end. Amen. (Benediction from the Mozarabic Psalter)