

## **A Service of Worship of Almighty God**

Scripture version used in this service outline is selections from the English Standard Bible, except where otherwise acknowledged.

### **Today is a Communion Service:**

Following our reading from Psalm 93 we will conduct our second short Communion Service for this month. You will need to provide in advance the items for the use of all people in your group. Please provide a small portion for each participant. A small piece of bread and a mouthful of wine or its equivalent. There is no merit in providing the most authentic items. The willingness and intent to honour the Lord in our heart and actions is what counts.

### **Come let us bow our hearts to worship in prayer:**

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:3-5

Almighty God. Our Heavenly Father. Before you all hearts are open and desires known. There is no secret hidden from you. According to the greatness of your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins, for we acknowledge our transgressions and the sin that is ever before us. We pray, create in us a clean heart. Renew our spirits in righteousness. We pray these things in coming before you in the presence of one another, and on the merits and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(From : 'Hymns of the Christian Life.' One of our Church hymn books.)

### **The hymn: I Sing the Mighty Power of God.**

I sing the almighty power of God,  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
who filled the earth with food,  
who formed the creatures thru the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below,  
but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne;  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care;  
and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.

Isaac Watts 1674 - 1748. From Psalm 93 NIV

Our leader will read the lines in *italics*,  
and our scattered congregation will read the lines in plain type.

### **The Lord On High is Mighty.**

#### The Story of the Hymn

Did you know that "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" was originally written for children. It was published in 1715 in "Divine and Moral Songs for Children".

It was the aim of Watts to write songs to the level of a child's understanding. However, this song is now in the adult section of our hymnals. Its simple message ministers to Christians worldwide.

To really appreciate this hymn we must remember the state of Christian music at that time. Most of the songs then were inspired by the book of psalms.

When the 19 year old Isaac Watts complained to his minister father about Church music, his father challenged him to write something better.

From that moment on Isaac Watts began writing hymns. He was so prolific that over his life he wrote hundreds of songs for the Christian church.

You can imagine how at first the Church Conservatives objected to them as not coming directly from scripture. The church leaders said any songs not directly from the scriptures were not inspired.

However, Isaac Watts could not understand the logic of being able to pray by our own words but not sing in our own words. To him, if one can pray from his heart then he should be able also to sing from the heart.

I Sing the Almighty Power of God is based on scriptures talking about creation. Passages such as Jeremiah 10:12-13: 12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion. 13 When he uttered his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; he makes lightnings with rain and brings the wind out of his treasures.

A short responsive reading of Psalm 93 based in the New International Version

Using our service guide -

Our leader either on line or a member of your own group will read the lines in *italics*, and our scattered congregation will read the lines in plain type.

**The Lord On High is Mighty.** Psalm 93.

*The Lord reigns. He is robed in majesty.*

The Lord is robed in majesty, and armed with strength.

*Indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.*

Your throne was established long ago. You are from all eternity.

*The seas have lifted up, Lord,*

The seas have lifted up their voice; The seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

*Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,*

Mightier than the breakers of the sea -

*The Lord on high is mighty!*

Your statutes stand firm;

(In Unison) Holiness adorns Your house for endless days.

In Jesus precious name, Amen.

We come now to the brief service to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus as God's lamb who takes away the sins of all who in faith trust Him. Do you trust Him. Then He died for you and we invite your participation. It is not a matter of actions, but of faith in the word and promises of the living God that counts.

But first, let us sing two verses of our communion hymn: 'My God and is Thy Table Spread.' This is 430 in our Red Book.

1 My God, and is thy table spread,  
and doth thy cup with love o'erflow?  
Thither be all thy children led,  
and let them all thy sweetness know.

2 Hail, sacred feast which Jesus makes,  
rich banquet of his flesh and blood!  
Thrice happy he who here partakes  
that sacred stream, that heavenly food.

Now, share out the bread and wine to each participant.

We read the Gospel of Luke, chapter 22 and just seven verses, 14-20. As we do so you will notice that there is in Luke two cups mentioned. This is not an error. During this ceremony there were a number of wine cups used, that is their cup

was refilled a number of times. Luke mentions two of them. The first of the cups which were usually taken during the celebration of the Jewish Passover. The last cup was that of the "Lord's Supper," the perpetual observance mentioned here which is perpetuated by the Christian church for all the days of the times of the Gentiles, our Lord's Supper which we celebrate so simply here today. We then, remember the Lord's Supper this morning.

In summary the cup in Luke 22.17 is Jewish and was significant to them as Jews. But the cup of v20, the cup of the covenant is the cup of the Lord's Supper and is significant to all of us, Jew & Gentile, who believe in Jesus.

Luke 22:14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.

":17 After taking the Jewish cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

#### Sharing the Bread

:19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. Eat your bread.

#### Sharing the Cup

:20 Jesus took the cup again and shared it between them. It was the cup of the new covenant in His blood. Drink your cup

Let us pray: Our Father we confess sometimes that we find these events a little confusing, because it is to us a foreign culture. Help us to be patient and quietly remember the events we find in your word. Understanding comes slowly and the adjustment of our lives come even more slowly again. Help us to, as Dr. Bob Peterson would teach us to learn, understand and obey your sacred word. In Jerus sacred name we pray. Amen.

We draw the cloth across our table by singing this last verse of our Communion hymn:

4. O let thy table honoured be,  
and furnished well with joyful guests;  
and may each soul salvation see,  
that here its sacred pledges taste.

Amen.

Let us now pray for the significant events of our fellowship, for one another with special things, for our country, governments, family and friends, Let us bring to the Lord the effects of covid, of the financial burden, the frustration, the small inconvenience that rankle and seem so unnecessary. Let us pray for our missionary reps. For Jeremy and Felicity Aitken, Emmanuel & Clare Azalie, Aleesha Bransgrove, Steve & Dianne Cook, David & Ruth Bryce. Richard Coombs, Ian & Vivian Dennis, Andrew and Sandra Freeman, Reece & Rhonda Hall, Hans and Elke

Kummar, Luke & Monica Mosely, Richard and Lyn Pearson, Josh and Amanda Pidgeon, Sandra Rowe, and for Matt Warren. We also pray for our own people: Arthur & Jeanette, Helen & Mary, Ann Hutchinson, for our ladies in care, Rae, June Muriel. Pray for Joan, Laurie and Valmai and David and Erin. (And the wider families of all these.) For Coralie, for Chris & Doreen, Philip and Eirene, and their Canberra members. Pray for Darrell. And last but not least pray that the Church may grow and serve the area where God has put us. The Lord give us lucid minds, strong backs and willing hearts we pray. Have we missed anyone? Pray for them now.

Dear Lord as we open your word today please speak to us and encourage us.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

The speaker will bring his own Bible reading from the Acts: So take your Bible in your hands and open your heart to receive God's word for you today. It is coming as a Zoom meeting.

### **The Message for today.**

The closing Hymn is No. 28 in our Red book: **"This is my Father's World."**

This a pleasant hymn with which to close and a pretty English tune

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world,  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;  
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let the earth be glad!

Mathie D. Babcock 1858 - 1901  
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### **Benediction:**

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee and give thee peace. Amen.