

Service sheet for 20th September

THE COST OF OBEDIENCE

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his love endures for ever.

Tell of his mighty acts;

And make his praises heard.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel:

From everlasting to everlasting.

Let all the people say, 'Amen':

Amen, praise the Lord! *From Psalm 106*

Loving God, we have gathered to worship You.

Help us to pray to You in faith,

to sing Your praise with gratitude,

and to listen to Your word with eagerness;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Song: Mission Praise 50

Verse 1

Be still for the presence of the Lord,

The Holy One is here

Come bow before Him now,

With reverence and fear

In Him no sin is found

We stand on holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord,

The Holy One is here

Verse 2

Be still for the glory of the Lord,

Is shining all around

He burns with holy fire,

With splendour He is crowned

How awesome is the sight

Our radiant King of light

Be still for the glory of the Lord,

Is shining all around

Verse 3

Be still for the power of the Lord,

Is moving in this place

He comes to cleanse and heal,

To minister His grace

No work too hard for Him

In faith receive from Him

Be still for the power of the Lord

Is moving in this place

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Let us confess our sins:

**God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
Forgive *us our* sins,
and bring *us* to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect

Luke 9: 51-62

Samaritan Opposition

⁵¹As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" ⁵⁵But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then he and his disciples went to another village.

The Cost of Following Jesus

⁵⁷As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

⁵⁹He said to another man, "Follow me."

But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

⁶¹Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."

⁶²Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Song: Mission Praise 870

Jesus is the name we honour;
Jesus is the name we praise.
Majestic name above all other names,
The highest heaven and earth proclaim
That Jesus is our God.
*We will glorify,
We will lift Him high,*

*We will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify...*

Jesus is the name we worship;
Jesus is the name we trust.
He is the King above all other kings,
Let all creation stand and sing
That Jesus is our God
We will glorify...

Jesus is the Father's splendour;
Jesus is the Father's joy.
He will return to reign in majesty,
And every eye at last will see
That Jesus is our God.
We will glorify... Phil Lawson Johnston

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Acts 9: 19b-31

Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

²³ After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, ²⁴ but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. ²⁵ But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews,^[a] but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Sermon

Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 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.**

Prayers

God of mercy,
 You know us and love us, and hear our prayer:
 keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
 Amen.

Prayers from screen

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be Your name,
 Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
 now and for ever. Amen.**

Mission Praise 1350

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
 To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
 Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
 Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
 That the light of Christ might be seen today
 In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
 Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
 All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
 Holy reverence, true humility;
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes

