

**O GIVE THANKS**

We were wand'ring in the desert  
with our souls so starved and weak.

We were hungry for a homeland  
we did not know how to seek.

But we lifted up our voices to the only One who hears;  
And the God of mercy came and brought us near.

We were locked out of the garden,  
and our backs bent down with pain.  
In the shadow of death's darkness,  
we were slaves to sin and blame.

Then we cried out in our labor to the only One who hears,  
And the God of mercy wiped away our tears.

Oh give thanks to the LORD for His love endures forever!  
We were wandering and lost,  
and our Father brought us home,  
To a safe dwelling place, to a feast of joy and laughter.  
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

We were fools in our rebellion,  
with our hunger strike of pride.  
We were sick and growing closer  
to the death we should have died.  
Then he heard of our condition,  
and he called us by our names;  
And the God of glory took away our shame.

We were far out on the ocean,  
making wealth and chasing dreams,  
But the waves of great destruction  
brought us tremb'ling to our knees.  
Then we cried like drunken sailors  
to the only One who hears,  
And the God of comfort took away our fears.  
REPEAT CHORUS

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;  
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

**For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.**  
—Psalm 95:1-3—

**THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD**

This is my Father's world,  
And to my list'ning 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

**THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD cont.**

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:  
Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world,  
The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and Heav'n be one.

**COME YE SOULS BY SIN AFFLICTED**

Come ye souls by, sin afflicted,  
Bowed with fruitless, sorrow down;  
By the broken, law convicted,  
Through the cross, behold the crown;  
Look to Jesus; Look to Jesus; Look to Jesus;  
Mercy flows through Him alone.

Take His easy, yoke and wear it;  
Love will make your, obedience sweet;  
Christ will give you, strength to bear it,  
While His grace, shall guide your feet  
Safe to glory, Safe to glory, Safe to glory,  
Where His ransomed captives meet.

Blessed are the, eyes that see Him,  
Blest the ears that, hear His voice;  
Blessed are the, souls that trust Him,  
And in Him, alone rejoice;  
His commandments, His commandments, His commandments  
Then become their happy choice.

Sweet as home to, pilgrims weary,  
Light to newly, opened eyes,  
Like full springs in, deserts dreary,  
Is the rest, the cross supplies;  
All who taste it, All who taste it, All who taste it  
Shall to rest immortal rise.

Look to Jesus; Look to Jesus; Look to Jesus;  
Mercy flows through Him alone.

## Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 40

Q 105. What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

**A. I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor—not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds—and I am not to be party to this in others; rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge. I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either. Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.**

Q 106. Does this commandment refer only to murder?

**A. By forbidding murder God teaches us that he hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness. In God's sight all such are disguised forms of murder.**

Q 107. Is it enough then that we do not murder our neighbor in any such way?

**A. No. By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly toward them, to protect them from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.**

### CONFESSION OF SIN

There are many times we think we love you well, O God. But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart, and all our mind, and all our strength, we confess that our love for you is a diluted love, made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart. Our love seems pure only for brief moments; soon our affections are drawn away. How easily our devotion dies. Forgive us; in deep mercy spare us, despite our lost first love for you; in grace rekindle our love for you in seeing anew Jesus' love for us. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

—Psalm 103:8–13, NRSV—

### ISAIAH 43

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you  
And the waves they will not overcome you.  
Do not fear. For I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

(Men) For I am the Lord your God.

(Women) I am the Lord your God.

(Men) For I am the Lord your God.

(Women) I am...

### ISAIAH 43 cont.

(Together) ... the Holy One of Israel, Your Savior.

(Men) For I am the Lord your God.

(Women) I am the Lord your God.

(Men) For I am the Lord your God.

(Women) I am...

(Together) ... the Holy One of Israel, Your Savior.

I am the Lord. (Do not fear.)

I am the Lord. (Do not fear.)

I am the Lord. (Do not fear.)

I am the Lord. (Do not fear.)

(Last time only) I am the Lord.

When you walk through the fire, you'll not be burned.

And the flames they will not consume you.

Do not fear. For I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name, you are mine.

### SERMON

#### DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### COMMUNION

#### A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;

Our helper he amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe

doth seek to work us woe;

His craft and pow'r are great

And armed with cruel hate,

on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing;

Were not the right man on our side,  
the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be?

Christ Jesus! It is he!

Lord Sabaoth his name,

From age to age the same,

and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,

We will not fear, for God hath willed  
his truth to triumph through us.

**A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD cont.**

The prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,  
For lo! His doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs,  
no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
His kingdom is forever.