

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

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

O God of our salvation,
we give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

—I Chronicles 16:34–36—

PRAISE TO THE LORD

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
The King of creation

O my soul, praise Him

for He is thy health and salvation

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near.

Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord,

Who o'er all things so wonderfully reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings.

Yea, so gladly sustaineth

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord,

who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy

here daily attend thee

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord,

O let all that is in me adore Him,
all that hath life and breath

Come now with praises before Him.

Let the 'amen sound from His people again

Gladly for aye we adore Him

COME YE SINNERS

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;

Jesus, ready, stands to save you,
full of pity, joined with power.

I will arise and go to Jesus: He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are 10,000 charms.

Come ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;

True belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh.

REPEAT CHORUS

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

REPEAT CHORUS

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 18

Q46. What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"?

A. That Christ, while his disciples watched, was taken up from the earth into heaven and remains there on our behalf until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 18 cont.

Q47. But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?

A. Christ is true human and true God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is never absent from us.

Q48. If his humanity is not present wherever his divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

A. Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity that has been taken on, but at the same time his divinity is in and remains personally united to his humanity.

Q49. How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

A. First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of his Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ our head will also take us, his members, up to himself. Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge. By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unending, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell securely;
And this is His name by which He will be called,
'The Lord our righteousness.'
—Jeremiah 23:6—

LORD I NEED YOU

Lord, I come, I confess,
bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart,
You're the One that guides my heart

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You, every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
REPEAT CHORUS

LORD I NEED YOU cont.

Teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay
REPEAT

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You,
every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness,
oh God, how I need You
REPEAT

You're my one defense, my righteousness,
oh God, how I need You
My one defense, my righteousness,
oh God, how I need You

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**JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN**

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,
Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me;
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me;
Oh, twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN cont.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heavens eternal days before thee,
Gods own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.