

**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!  
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,  
whom he has redeemed from trouble  
and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.  
—Psalm 107 :1-3—

**HE IS OUR GOD**

Who can light the fires of a thousand burning suns  
Blazing in the heavens?  
There is only One—He is our God

Who commands the nations, building up and tearing down  
Silencing His rivals? There is only One  
He is our God, He is our God

Holy, You alone are holy. Matchless in Your glory, holy God

Who would come to save us, when we turned away His love  
Conquer us with kindness? There is only One  
He is our God, He is our God

Holy, You alone are holy. Matchless in Your glory,  
no one is like You.  
Worthy, You alone are worthy.  
We adore You only, holy God

Now to the King on the throne  
Who was and is to come  
And to the Lamb Who was slain  
be glory x 3  
REPEAT CHORUS

**AND CAN IT BE**

And can it be that I should gain?  
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died he for me who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be?  
That thou my God shouldst die for me?

He left his father's throne above.  
So free, so infinite his grace!  
Emptied himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all immense and free,  
For, O my God, it found out me.

Amazing love! How can it be,  
That thou my God shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That thou my God shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray:  
I woke the dungeon flamed with light!  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth and followed thee.

**AND CAN IT BE cont.**

No condemnation now I dread: Jesus and all in him is mine.

Alive in him my living head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine.

Bold, I approach th' eternal throne,  
And claim the crown through Christ my own.

REPEAT CHORUS

**Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 19**

Q50. Why is it added, "and sitteth at the right hand of God"?

**A. Because Christ is ascended into heaven for this end, that he might appear as head of his church, by whom the Father governs all things.**

Q51. What profit is this glory of Christ, our head, unto us?

**A. First, that by his Holy Spirit he pours out heavenly graces upon us his members; and then that by his power he defends and preserves us against all enemies.**

Q52. What comfort is it to thee that "Christ shall come again to judge the quick and the dead"?

**A. That in all my sorrows and persecutions, with uplifted head I look for the very same person, who before offered himself for my sake, to the tribunal of God, and has removed all curse from me, to come as judge from heaven: who shall cast all his and my enemies into everlasting condemnation, but shall translate me with all his chosen ones to himself, into heavenly joys and glory.**

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Gracious God, you have given us the law of Moses and the teachings of Jesus to direct us in the way of life. You offer us your Holy Spirit so that we can be born to new life as your children. Yet, O God, we confess that the ways of death have a strong attraction and that we often succumb to their lure. Give us the vision and courage to choose and nurture life, that we may receive your blessing. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and unswerving loyalty to Abraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old.

—Micah 7:18–20, NRSV—

**HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION**

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

**HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION cont.**

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;  
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes.  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake.

**SERMON****DOXOLOGY****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.  
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.