

**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  
or 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**

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.

**I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and  
delivered me from all my fears.**

O taste and see that the LORD is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.

—Psalm 34:1-4, 8, NRSV—

**IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
Of all thy rich graces this grace, Lord, impart  
Take the veil from our faces, the vile from our heart.

All laud we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee,  
And so let Thy glory, almighty, impart,  
Through Christ in His story, Thy Christ to the heart.

**GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME**

God, be merciful to me;  
On Thy grace I rest my plea  
Plenteous in compassion Thou,  
Blot out my transgressions now;  
Wash me, make me pure within;  
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess;  
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.  
I have sinned against Thy grace,  
And provoked Thee to Thy face.  
I confess Thy judgement just;  
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin;  
Thou desirest truth within.  
Thou alone my Savior art,  
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;  
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,  
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Gracious God, my heart renew,  
Make my spirit right and true.  
Cast me not away from Thee,  
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;  
Thy salvation's joy impart,  
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me,  
And return, O God, to Thee  
Savior all my guilt remove,  
And my tongue shall sing Thy love  
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,  
And my mouth shall praise accord

**Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 28**

Q75. How does the holy supper remind and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all his benefits?

**A. In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in remembrance of him. With this command come these promises: First, as surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup shared with me, so surely his body was offered and broken for me and his blood poured out for me on the cross. Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the one who serves, and taste with my mouth the bread and cup of the Lord, given me as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely he nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life with his crucified body and poured-out blood.**

Q76. What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink his poured-out blood?

**A. It means to accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ and thereby to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. But it means more. Through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and in us, we are united more and more to Christ's blessed body. And so, although he is in heaven<sup>3</sup> and we are on earth, we are flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone. And we forever live on and are governed by one Spirit, as the members of our body are by one soul.**

Q77. Where does Christ promise to nourish and refresh believers with his body and blood as surely as they eat this broken bread and drink this cup?

**A. In the institution of the Lord's Supper: "The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." This promise is repeated by Paul in these words: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."**

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Merciful God, we have not loved you with all our heart and mind and strength and soul.

[Silence]

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We have not loved our neighbors as you have taught us.

[Silence]

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We are indifferent to the saving grace of your Word and life.

[Silence]

**CONFESSION OF SIN cont.**

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive and heal us by your steadfast love made known to us in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him. Brothers and sisters: through the cross of Christ we are forgiven and reconciled to God. Praise be to God!

—based on Colossians 1:19–22, NRSV—

**BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE**

Before the throne of God above,  
I have a strong and perfect plea;  
A great High Priest whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands;  
My name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in heav'n He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
and tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there,  
who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
my sinful soul is counted free:  
For God, the Just, is satisfied,  
to look on Him and pardon me,  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the Risen Lamb;  
my perfect spotless righteousness.  
The great unchangeable I Am,  
the King of Glory and of grace.  
One with Himself I cannot die;  
my soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ my Savior and my God.

**SERMON**

**GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY**

God moves in a mysterious way  
 His wonders to perform  
 He plants His footsteps in the sea  
 And rides upon the storm  
 Deep in unsearchable mines  
 Of never failing skill  
 He treasures up His bright designs  
 And works His sov'reign will

And ye fearful saints fresh courage take  
 The clouds you so much dread  
 Are big with mercy and shall break  
 In blessings yeah in blessings  
 And in blessings on your head

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense  
 But trust Him for His grace  
 Behind a frowning providence  
 He hides a smiling face  
 His purposes will ripen fast  
 Unfolding ev'ry hour  
 The bud may have a bitter taste  
 But sweet will be the flow'r yeah

Blind unbelief is sure to err  
 And scan His work in vain  
 For God is His own interpreter  
 And He will make it plain  
 In His own time  
 In His own way yes  
 In His own time, In His own way

**COMMUNION****YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN**

Your labor is not in vain  
 Though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained  
 Your planting and reaping are never the same  
 Your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown  
 Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan  
 The place of your toil may not seem like a home  
 But Your labor is not unknown

I am with you, I am with you  
 I am with you, I am with you  
 For I have called you, called you by name  
 Your labor is not in vain

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit  
 The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth  
 For all that is old will at last be made new  
 The vineyards you plant will bear fruit

**YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN cont.**

REPEAT CHORUS

The houses you labored to build  
 Will finally with laughter and joy be filled  
 The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed  
 And all that is broken be healed

REPEAT CHORUS