

# Divine Worship

## 1 Corinthians 10.12, 13 "Growing through Temptation"

### Preparation

But *it is* good for me to draw near to God;  
I have put my trust in the Lord GOD,  
That I may declare all Your works.

### Silent Meditation

Psalm 73.28

### Call to Worship

Psalm 73.1

Leader:

Truly God *is* good to Israel;  
To such as are pure in heart.

People:

"The LORD *is* my portion," says my soul,  
"Therefore I hope in Him!"

Lamentations 3.24

All:

The LORD *is* good to those who wait for Him,  
To the soul *who* seeks Him.

Lamentations 3.25

### Hymn of Praise

### "Great is Thy Faithfulness" vv. 1, 2 by Thomas O. Chisolm

Great is Thy faithfulness, oh God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

### **Invocation**

Leader:

Lord, great is Your faithfulness! Through Your mercies we are not consumed, because Your compassions never fail! They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness! Strengthen us by Your Presence with us, Lord, and empower us to worship You in Spirit and in truth. **We sing together:**

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

### **Call to Confession**

Leader:

Great, O Lord is our lack of faith, and our inclination to sin and rebel against You and Your Son. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and see our anxious ways, as we silently confess our sins to you:

### **Silent Confession**

**All**

### **Word of Assurance**

Leader:

We thank You for Your great faithfulness, O Lord, that You will not cast us off forever, that You show us compassion because of Jesus, and that, according to the multitude of Your mercies, we are forgiven of our sins and cleansed! And so **we sing to Your praise** ("Great is Thy Faithfulness," v. 3:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
And all I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

**All**

All may offer thanksgiving for the many blessings of the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in **praying the Lord's Prayer**.

### **Hymn of Thanksgiving**

**Psalm 73.16-24**

(Ellacombe: [\*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna\*](#))

Into Your presence, Lord, I come and see the sinner's end:  
In slippery places they must run; to judgment them You send.  
Destruction all at once must fall when You Your anger raise;  
And terror will beset them all both now and all their days.

When my poor sad, embittered heart was pierced within by grace,  
I saw how beastly was the part I chose before Your face.  
But I am ever with You, Lord, You hold me by the hand,  
And guide me daily by Your Word; in glory I e'er shall stand.

### **Offerings to the Lord**

Here, all may bring an offering of praise and honor to the Lord: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the Leader shall pray:

Lord, summer and winter, springtime and harvest, and all the blessings and benefits of each of these, all come to us from Your faithful and gracious hand. We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together (**all together, saying the Apostles' Creed**);

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Doxology**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

**All**

Praise Him, all creatures, here below!  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!  
Amen!

## **The Ministry of the Word**

## **1 Corinthians 10.12, 13**

Here the Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it.

Leader:

Asaph, who led worship in the days of King Solomon, can help us in understanding Paul's meaning in this text. In Psalm 73, Asaph was faced with a powerful temptation, which he described in verses 2-14. Would someone read these verses for us?

1. How would you describe Asaph's temptation? What was he observing? How did that make him feel?
2. Just in the nick of time, however, Asaph realized that his "feet had almost stumbled" and he "had nearly slipped." How did he express this realization (v. 15)? What does this mean? What happened in Asaph as he considered this temptation?

As we shall see, God met Asaph, in the midst of his temptation, and began leading him through the way of escape. What is temptation? German theologian Helmut Thielicke described temptation as finding ourselves at the point of wanting to be disloyal to God. Temptation is not sin; rather, temptation is the common experience of every one of us, as Paul indicates in 1 Corinthians 10.13.

3. How do we know that temptation is not sin (Heb. 4.15)?

When temptation comes, we have a choice: We can *fall* through temptation into sin; or we can *grow* through temptation into greater sanctification in the Lord. In Psalm 73, Asaph directs us to several "ways of escape" that can enable us to grow through, rather than fall through, the temptations we face each day. Let's see if we can identify them.

4. The first is mentioned in verse 15. What would have been the result of Asaph's falling through temptation into sin? How does this serve to help us escape through temptation?
5. The next step in a way of escape through temptation is indicated in verses 16, 17. What did Asaph do to get clarity on this temptation, and to find the way of escape? How does this guide us in seeking the way of escape through temptation?
6. Next, what is Asaph doing in verses 18-20 to help him overcome his temptation? How should we practice this?
7. Look at verses 21 and 22. What kind of attitude toward sin does this indicate? How can this be part of a way of escape through temptation?

8. Finally, in verses 23-25 Asaph turns to the Lord in prayer. How would you summarize the gist of this prayer, and how can it help us in finding the way of escape through temptation?

In verses 26-28, Asaph concludes his struggle with temptation by reaffirming his faith and trust in God, and his determination to declare and do the works of the Lord. How can we apply this step to our faith in Jesus, and our desire to be made increasingly like Him?

Meditate in silence on the teaching of 1 Corinthians 10.13.

All (sharing):

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation.

### **Hymn of Commitment**

**Psalm 73.25-28**

(Ellacombe: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*)

Then what have I in heav'n above but You, my God and Lord?  
And on this earth what shall I love besides You and Your Word?  
My flesh and heart shall surely fail, and death my soul release;  
Your strength for me will e'er avail and grant eternal peace.

Then let them perish who depart from You and from Your Word.  
All those unfaithful in their heart You shall destroy, O Lord!  
But as for me, Your presence, Lord, is where I e'er will dwell!  
I hide myself within Your Word, Your wondrous works to tell.

### **Benediction**

**Leader**

Flee to the Lord when temptations come, and find your rest and renewal in Him. And may the Lord bless and keep you, and keep you close to Himself.

All:

And we will declare all His works!

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