

Divine Worship

1 Thessalonians 2.9-12 “Called to the Kingdom and Glory of God”

Preparation

For the earth will be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Silent Meditation

Habakkuk 2.14

Call to Worship

Exodus 33.16, 18, 19 (adapted)

Leader:

How shall it be known that we have found favor in God’s sight, we who are His people? Is it not in God’s going with us, so that we are distinct from every other people on the face of the earth?”

People:

Lord, show us Your glory!

Leader:

The Lord will be gracious with whom He will be gracious, and He will have compassion on whom He will have compassion.

All:

Lord, be gracious to us, and have compassion on us, and show us your glory!

Hymn of Praise

Psalms 19.1-6, 12-14

(St. Christopher: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*)

The heav’ns declare God’s glory, the skies His work proclaim!
From day to day and night by night they shout His glorious Name!
No speech, no words, no voice is heard, yet all across the earth
The lines of His all-present Word make known His holy worth.

Behold, the sun arises, a bridegroom strong and bright,
Rejoicing as he runs his course from morning unto night.
From east to west across the skies his circuit he completes,
And none can hide their sinful eyes or shelter from his heat.

Who, Lord, can know his errors? O keep sin far from me!
Let evil rule not in my soul that I may blameless be.
O let my thoughts, let all my words, before Your glorious sight
Be pleasing to You, gracious Lord, acceptable and right!

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

You have called us to Your Kingdom and glory, O Lord, that we might know You in Your glory, and show Your glory to the world. But we must see Your glory, Lord, and be transformed by Your glory, or we will not be able to live for Your glory. We come seeking You and Your glory, Lord; yet we know that we are a people always in need of cleansing. Who can know all His sins? In the silence, Lord, let Your Spirit search us, convict us, and lead us to confession and repentance. **Hear our silent confessions, Lord.**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Psalm 19.12-14 (adapted)

Leader:

Who can understand his errors?

People:

Cleanse me from secret *faults*.

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*;

Let them not have dominion over me!

All:

Then we shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

Be acceptable in Your sight,

O LORD, our strength and our Redeemer.

Gloria Patria

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end! Amen, Amen!

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

All

All may offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in **praying the Lord's Prayer.**

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: 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:**

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

All

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
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 Thessalonians 2.9-12

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

Leader:

Remember when you were a child, and your Mom called you to come to dinner? What was she expecting? What were you supposed to do? Would there have been consequences if you failed or refused to heed her call? God has called us to participate in a great feast at the end of time, the marriage supper of the Lamb, which celebrates the union of Christ and His people and inaugurates the time of eternal joy and praise. God has called us to share in this great feast, but only those who heed God's call, according to His expectations, and in line with His glory.

Paul said that God has called us "into His own kingdom and glory." Within that framework, Paul frequently insisted that he was following God's specific call for his life (cf. Rom. 1.1; 1 Cor. 1.1; etc.). He had a *particular* calling – unique to himself – within the larger and more *general* calling shared by every believer. By looking at how Paul carried out *his* calling from the Lord, we can gain some understanding of what God expects of us, whom He has called to His Kingdom and glory.

1. How did Paul understand what God was expecting of him in following His call? What did following God's call involve (vv. 9-11)?

Paul's calling as an apostle was a calling *within* His calling to the Kingdom and glory of God. That larger calling defined the general parameters and practices that were to shape his specific calling as an apostle. The same is true for each one of us.

2. How would you define your calling within the calling to God's Kingdom and glory?

Your calling is your Personal Mission Field, and there, God requires that we conduct ourselves according to a "worthy" walk (v. 12). That is, our daily life should line up with the character, condition, and consequences of

the Kingdom of God: righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14.17, 18). And everything we do should be with a view to bringing the glory of God to light (1 Cor. 10.31). To Moses, God equated His *glory* with His *Presence*. When He was present with him, His glory was always nearby. The word *glory* derives from a Hebrew root that means, “to be heavy.” This explains why Paul talked about “an eternal weight of glory” in 2 Corinthians 4.17: “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory...”

3. What is the glory of God? How does the glory of God come to light in someone’s life?
4. What does it mean for us, in the Kingdom of God, to live for the glory of God?

Jesus embodied both the Kingdom and glory of God. Thus, as we look to Jesus and consider Him (Heb. 3.1; 12.1-3), meditating on Him as He reveals Himself throughout the Word of God (Jn. 5.39), the Spirit of God within us will *show* us the glory of Jesus and *transform* us into His likeness, so that we may glorify Him in all aspects of our lives.

Jesus is the key to fulfilling our calling to the Kingdom and glory of God. Let us seek Him earnestly and always.

Meditate in silence on the teaching of 1 Thessalonians 2.9-12.

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

Hymn of Commitment

Psalm 25.1, 2, 16-22

(Festal Song: [*Revive Thy Work, O Lord*](#))

I lift my soul to You; O Lord, in You I trust.
Let me not come to shame, nor let my foes o’er me exult.

Be gracious, Lord, to me; my heart is weighed with woe.
My troubles and affliction see; let my transgressions go.

Consider all my foes, who hate me all the day;
and rescue my poor soul lest I should stumble in the way.

Preserve me in Your way, redeem Your people, Lord!
We wait for You and refuge seek in Your own faithful Word.

Benediction

Leader:

The Lord show you His ways, teach you His paths and lead you in His truth. Psalm 25.4, 5 (adapted)

All:

You are the God of our salvation; on You we wait all the day. Psalm 25.5 (adapted)

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