

CAMEL - ALLEN BENEFICE

WORSHIP AT HOME



SUNDAY 16th MAY 2021

Introduction

Alleluia, Christ is risen
He is risen, indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
**he has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own:
He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia, Christ is risen
He is risen, indeed. Alleluia.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn:

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His Name.

Blessings abound wherever He reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honours to our King;

Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

Great God, whose universal sway
The known and unknown worlds obey,
Now give the kingdom to Thy Son,
Extend His power, exalt His throne.

The sceptre well becomes His hands;
All Heav'n submits to His commands;
His justice shall avenge the poor,
And pride and rage prevail no more.

With power He vindicates the just,
And treads th'oppressor in the dust:
His worship and His fear shall last
Till hours, and years, and time be past.

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Acts 1: 15-17; 21-26

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, **16** “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus **17** for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, **22** beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” **23** So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. **24** Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen **25** to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” **26** And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

1 John 5: 9-13

9 If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. **10** Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. **11** And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. **13** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 17: 6-19

6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; **8** for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. **9** I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. **10** All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. **11** And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. **12** While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one

of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. **13** But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. **14** I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **15** I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. **16** They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Reflection

Our Gospel reading today comes towards the end of the long discourse which Jesus gave to his disciples on Maundy Thursday. Already, while in the upper room after finishing the last supper, Jesus has explained that he will not be with the disciples much longer: he then tells them to get up, for it is time for them to be on their way.

As they are walking through the streets of Jerusalem on the way to Gethsemane, where Jesus will be arrested, Jesus sees a vine tree which prompts him to begin his speech to the disciples by saying, "*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower*". Now, having told the disciples that he came from the Father into the world, but that now he is leaving the world and going back to

the Father, Jesus looks up towards heaven and prays. His prayer falls into three distinct parts and our reading is the central part.

Jesus, knowing that the end is close, prays first for the Father to glorify him with the same glory that he had before the world existed, thus confirming his pre-existence, as so wonderfully described at the very beginning of John's Gospel: "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God*", and, "*The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us*".

In the central part of this prayer which formed our reading, Jesus prays for the eleven remaining disciples. Judas Iscariot has already left the group and is, as Jesus speaks, in the process of betraying him.

Jesus prays for the protection of the disciples because they are not any longer of the world. Just as Jesus does not belong to the world, so now his disciples have become, in a sense, other worldly. And yet, Jesus does not pray that they be taken out of the world but, rather, that they be sanctified in the truth, because they are being sent out into the world to spread the truth.

In the final part of the prayer, which is not included in our reading, the prayer for the disciples is expanded to include all those who will come to believe in Jesus through the word to be spread by the disciples. It is a prayer for us. His prayer is that all believers may be as one, as God the Father and God the Son



are one. He prays, "*As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us.*"

By expanding the prayer to include us, Jesus is acknowledging that, as believers, we too become, in some sense, not of this world, whilst remaining in it. This is not a rejection of the worldly life: we are creatures of flesh and blood, not disembodied spirits. And yet, we become one with Jesus and, through him, with God, existing not only on this physical plane, but on a spiritual plane as well. We become spiritually united as one in Christ.

The source of all life, eternal life, flows through Jesus, the true vine, and we, each of us, are branches of the true vine through which that eternal life courses. This message of Christian hope is reaffirmed in our New Testament reading: "*God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life.*"

The unity of the church springs from this common, eternal life that is imparted to all believers. It is manifested in our common love for Christ and our obedience to the commandment which he gave the disciples earlier in this, his final, talk on earth, to love one another as he loves us. As it is written a little earlier in the letter from which our New Testament reading was taken: *“For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.”*

Confession & Forgiveness

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came in love to a world of suffering
forgive our self centredness.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God’s truth,
strengthen us to do God’s will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn:

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour’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?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

’Tis mystery all: th’Immortal dies:
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
’Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
’Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;
Let angel minds inquire no more.





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!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!

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

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

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity

Jesus, light of the world,
Bring the light and peace of your Gospel to the nations
Jesus, Lord of life,
In your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
Give food to the hungry
And nourish us all with your word.
Jesus, Lord of life,
In your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
Be with us and all who follow you in the way
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
And fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
In your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
Recover the straggler,
Bind up the injured,
Strengthen the sick

And lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.
Jesus, Lord of life,
In your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
We give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you.
Raise us with them to eternal life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
**In your mercy, hear us,
Accept our prayers, and be with us always.
Amen.**

Oh God the king of glory,
You have exalted your only son, Jesus Christ,
With great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
We beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
But send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
And exalt us to the place
Our Saviour Christ is gone before,
Who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Our Father...

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God



**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Hymn:

God is working His purpose out
As year succeeds to year;
God is working his purpose out,
And the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time,
The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled
With the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west,
Where'er man's foot hath trod,
By the mouth of many messengers
Goes forth the voice of God:
"Give ear to Me, ye continents,
Ye isles, give ear to Me,"
That the earth may be filled
With the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

What can we do to work God's work,
To prosper and increase
The brotherhood of all mankind,
The reign of the Prince of Peace?
What can we do to hasten the time,
The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled
With the glory of God as the waters cover the sea

March we forth in the strength of God,
With the banner of Christ unfurled,
That the light of the glorious Gospel of truth
May shine throughout the world;
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin
To set their captives free,
That the earth may be filled
With the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth
Unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
Till God gives life to the seed;
Yet near and nearer draws the time,
The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.



Conclusion

God the Father,
By whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
Open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
Amen.

God the Son,
Who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
Give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.
Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be with us all
This day and evermore.

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within
you,
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.



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