

Sing¹ beforehand: Psalter 128:1

Blest is the man who always
Reveres and serves the LORD,
Who, walking in His pathways,
Obeys and keeps His Word.
The fruit of all your labor
As your reward you'll eat
And, blest by His great favor,
You'll have what you may need.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth². Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ³. By the powerful operation of God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalter 68:6

Give praise to God with reverence deep;
He daily comes our lives to keep
And kindly bears our burdens.
Our God upholds us in the strife;
To us he grants eternal life
And saves from all that threatens.
God crushes heads of enemies;
He brings them back from farthest seas
For Israel's jubilation.
He hears the needy when they cry;
He saves their souls when death draws nigh:
This God is our salvation.

Confession of Faith

Apostels Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Law

Psalter 67:3

The soil has yielded up its harvest,
and God, our God, has blessed our land.
May God bestow on us his blessings
and grant us bounty from his hand.
Let earth fall before him,
fear him and adore him.

¹ Psalters taken from various translations of the Genevan Psalms on the following two websites:
<http://www.genevanpsalter.com/>, <http://genevanpsalter.redeemer.ca/>

² Psalm 124:8

³ 1 Corinthians 1:3

Let the peoples praise,
praise with jubilation.
May all sound your praises
from every nation.

Prayer

Psalter 72:8

Long may he live, and may they render
Him Sheba's choicest gold!
Long may his arm in light and splendor
God's right and might uphold.
For him the prayers shall without ceasing
Ascend to heaven's throne;
All day we shall, our songs increasing,
Praise him with joyful tone.

Scripture reading: Matthew 28.
Text: Matthew 28:20

²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: **and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.** (KJV)

When, on that Sunday morning after the crucifixion, the small group of people arrived at the grave to treat the Lord's body with spices, they were greatly dismayed when they found the stone rolled away, and the Lord Jesus' body gone.

- Thereafter Peter at one stage went into the grave. And the Lord was gone.
- The linen in which the Lord had been wrapped lay neatly folded by themselves. But the Lord was not there.
- He triumphed over death and left the grave.

Thereafter the Lord appeared to people on various occasions.

- On one such occasion to more than 500 people at once
- By appearing and disappearing He revealed that He had broken through all boundaries: the boundaries of time and distance.
- He could be where and when He wanted to.

Still later the Lord Jesus was carried up into heaven right before the disciples' eyes.

- Alone and confused the disciples remained standing there until the angel commanded them to go back to Jerusalem to continue with their work.
- And what is now to become of the church? In what relationship is the Lord Jesus to stand to his church henceforth?

Therefore the Lord fortifies us with these words:

- **I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.**
- With his Spirit, his providence and his omnipotence He never forsakes his church.

That is why this morning; the Lord has again gathered us here together as a church.

- By His Holy Spirit He has called us.
- By His Spirit the Lord is present with us – indeed, every worship service is a particular moment of communion between the Lord and us.

With this meal, the Lord allows us to again commemorate his death.

- We are going to sit at table and the Lord is going to address us. He is also going to strengthen our faith again.
- He will again allow us to experience his presence with this Lord's Supper. He is still near us and with us.

- His strength still carries us, and his Spirit still guides us, and teaches us all the time.

With this Lord's Supper He is again going to bring us to the realisation that his kingdom is near, where we will presently live when we leave this life.

- That is why He says: **unto the end of the world**
- The earth's time will run dry – that's the completion.
- Then the time, towards which the Lord's Supper directs us, commences: the hereafter when the Lord will be visibly present with us.

The Lord's Supper thus means that the Lord again reveals to us, that we do not have to doubt his presence with us.

- If we have anxiety, or if there is illness at home, or even death – the Lord is there. In those moments he provides for us.
- The Lord's Supper reminds us that we cannot be forgotten of God.
- The Lord's Supper lets us realise that the presence of the Lord is also the blessing of the Lord.

Let us sit down at the Lord's Table, knowing that the grace obtained for us, by the Lord's death on the cross, remains in force until the Lord's return on the clouds.

Amen.

Prayer.

Formulary.

Psalter 23:1-3⁴

The Lord's my shepherd, close to me abiding.
I nothing lack, for he is yet providing.
In pastures green he lets me lie at leisure,
by quiet waters leads me at his pleasure;
there in his love he graciously revives me.
For his name's sake in righteous ways he guides me.

Though I be stalked by shadows fast approaching,
or valleys walk while darkness is encroaching,
I will not fear, for evil cannot touch me;
with you beside me foes may never crush me.
Your rod and staff are there for my protection,
they comfort me and offer sure direction.

You spread your table richly to receive me
before my foes, who vainly would deceive me.
Your precious oil anoints my head with kindness;
my cup flows over with a heart of gladness.
Goodness and mercy shall forsake me never,
and I will dwell in God's own house for ever.

Table.

During the Lord's Supper: Psalter 116
Psalter 118

Psalter 31:2,12

O LORD, come quickly to my rescue;
Be Thou my rock and tower.
To save me show Thy power;
Thou art my rock and mighty fortress.

⁴ Genevan Psalter

Be Thou my Guide and heed me,
And for Thy Name's sake lead me.

O how abundant is Thy goodness,
Which is reserved for all
Who fear Thee and recall
What Thou hast done for those who serve Thee,
And all who have oppressed them
Shall see that Thou hast blessed them.

The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon thee, And give thee peace⁵.
Amen

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⁵ Num. 6:24-26