
WORSHIP AT HOME



Welcome

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The risen Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord!

The Feast of the
Victory of of Lord

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.

We come in the name of Christ's mercy. We gather in the name of Christ's Grace. We serve in the name of Christ's Life-Giving Love.

Hymn of Preparation

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up Lord, Come and quench this thirsting of my soul. Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more; fill my cup, fill it up, and make me whole.

Prayer of Confession

Father, we believe Jesus Christ. We believe Jesus suffered all sin. We believe Jesus died to sin. We believe Jesus rose to Life. The moment we believed Christ freed us from the bondage of sin.

Lord, we confess that you freed us from sin to heal our souls. We confess that forgiving our neighbor as Christ forgave us heals our selfishness. We confess that Christ's grace heals our Worldly ways. We confess that Christ's love heals the souls of those wounded by evil. Amen.

Prayer of Blessing

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

JESUS

Father, I lift my heart-cup to you. In Christ's mercy cleanse my poor spirit and fill my heart-cup with your Holy Spirit.

Father, I lift the soul-cup to you. In Christ's Grace cleanse my selfish, worldly, evil ways, and fill my soul-cup with the Kingdom of Heaven.

Father, I lift my mind-cup to you. In Christ's love love cleanse my logic, reason, and judgment and fill my mind-cup with Jesus' Attitudes of Being.

Amen



Die to self and take up the cross of mercy.

Die to the World and take up the cross of Grace.

Take up your Cross and Follow Jesus.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through the prophets.
And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him
to Bless the Poor in Spirit with the Kingdom of Heaven,
to Bless those who mourn with the Holy Spirit who Comforts,
to Bless the meek with the earth from which you shaped us.

Hymn of Hope

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

The Gospel: Matthew 8:

5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. **6** "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

7 Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

8 The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. **9** For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. **11** I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. **12** But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

The Message

The word “mourn” stirs thoughts of death. Through death we experience the loss of loved ones. Jesus’ Beatitudes invites us to look for God’s Blessing in our mourning. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Jesus’ Be-Attitudes Blesses the Believer with: ears to hear God’s still small voice, the Holy Spirit; the strength to get a grip on Life, mercy; balance to enter the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, grace.

Like the Leper, in the preceding story, the Centurion’s mourning flows like a river from being “poor in spirit”. The Centurion understands what it means to be under authority, and to be a person with authority. He is an Officer in the Roman Army. He has authority to say to one of his troops, “Go,” and he goes. To another he says “Come,” and he comes. To yet another another he says “do this,” and he submits.

The Centurion’s servant is paralyzed. He may tell his servant to come, but his paralysis will not allow him to submit. Like wise he has the authority to tell the servant to “go” or “do this” but his paralysis will not allow him to submit. The paralysis created a conundrum. The Centurion does not have the power or authority to deliver and heal his servant. The servant’s affliction prevents him from submitting to authority. It sees we are faced with a similar conundrum.

Friends the “poor in spirit” have ears but cannot hear God’s still small voice. Having eyes they cannot see the the Kingdom of Heaven. The “poor in spirit” cannot submit to the Lord. They are paralyzed.

Sin paralyzes believers in fear.

Selfishness paralyzes believers. They expect everyone to submit to their authority.

The World paralyzes believers into submission with shame, guilt, and blame. (Judgement)

Evil paralyzes believers into submission with Condemnation and violence.

I often hear Believers ask, “Why do good people suffer.” Their question presupposes that “bad” people deserve suffering. Suffering comes from people paralyzed in sin, selfishness, the way of the world, and evil. Jesus delivers us from sin to lead us from blessing to blessing that heals our paralysis.

The Centurion died to self. His paralyzed servant opened his eyes to the limitations of his power and authority.

The Centurion died to the way of the world. He did not turn to those who had authority over him. I doubt the Roman Empire practiced honorable medical discharge. My dad was such a veteran. Years after witnessing the detonation of two nuclear bombs, called a test, the doctors at the Veterans hospital did not have the authority or power to heal his cancer or the paralysis caused by the life saving surgery.

Jesus says, the meek inherit the earth! Notice he does not say the meek inherit the World. The World is human made. God created the heavens and the earth. God created humanity of the dust of the earth. The World is what the Apostle Paul calls the principalities, powers, and rulers of this present darkness. (Ephesians 6:12)

The Centurion and the Leper have a lot in common. Religious people see them as unclean sinners. The World beat the Leper into submission. The Centurion submitted to the World's power and authority. By virtue of his submission to the Roman Empire the religious people see him as an agent of persecution and therefore their enemy.

When the Centurion says "I am unworthy to have you under my roof", I hear his "poor spirit." It should not shock the Institution that droves of people are leaving "the church" in search of Christ. Jesus told his Disciples to pray for the Centurion whom they see as a persecutor. He told his disciples to love the Centurion whom the religious judged their enemy. Matthew 6:43

The word "meek" means to submit to another's authority. The centurion didn't submit to self, the world, or evil. He died to their authority and rose in meekness with the Lord Jesus Christ who healed the Centurion and his servant with his Word.

I believe Jesus suffered all sin and died to give witness to the power and authority of mercy. I believe Jesus rose to life to give humanity The Holy Spirit who Comforts all who mourn.

I hear and see the "poor in spirit" to whom the Kingdom of Heaven belongs. Jesus delivers Believers from sin to heal their heart-soul-mind. The Centurion died to self and rose to have mercy for his servant. The Centurion died to the Way of the World and rose to find grace in Jesus Christ. The Centurion died to evil and rose in meekness. Though his suffering and death the Centurion inherited the earth. Hopefully we see the Blessing. God's will was done on earth as it is in heaven through the Centurion's meekness.

Have you died to sin?

Have you died to self and rose to be merciful as Christ is merciful?

Have you died to the World and rose to abide in Grace?

Have you died to evil and rose to pray for those who persecute you and love your enemies?

Have you figured out that the above suffering and death is the foundation on which Christ builds his Temple on earth as it is in heaven?

Confession is meekness!

Repentance is submitting to Jesus' power and authority.

Worship is living according to Jesus' Be- Attitudes

Witness is God's will done on earth as it is in heaven.

I see and hear the "poor in spirit" mourning. Politicians have used this virus to divide us. Science has turned this virus into profit. Evil has used this virus as a weapon for the divided to justify violence and killing.

Let those with ears hear the still small voice of God.
Let those who hear get a grip on life.
Let the meek find balance in the presence of sin, selfishness, the world, and evil. Amen.

Holy Communion: Prepare a Piece of Bread and Wine or Juice

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

Friends, the "this" we are to do in remembrance of Jesus is our sin, selfishness, worldly ways, and evil. "This" causes the suffering!

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

Friends, the "this" we are to do in remembrance of Jesus is Be filled with the Blessed Be-Attitudes.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Receive the Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing

Receive the bread of Life and drink the cup of Blessing.

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may die to the power and authority of self, the world, and evil.
Raise us in the Comfort of the Holy Spirit.
Bless us with meekness to have strength to get a grip on life.
Balance our lives by teaching us to walk in the Light of Your mercy, grace, and love.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**