



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 22nd June 2025

compiled by Dean James - Worship Leader

Dear Lord, in the restlessness of life, we pause to enter into Your presence. Quiet our hearts and minds as we seek You in this moment of stillness. Speak to us, Lord, and help us feel Your peace that surpasses all understanding. May this time of worship be a sanctuary of rest for our souls. Amen

Hymn

1] Jesus is the name we honour;
Jesus is the name we praise.
Majestic Name above all other names,
The highest heaven and earth proclaim
That Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify, We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify, We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.*

2] Jesus is the name we worship;
Jesus is the name we trust.
He is the King above all other kings,
Let all creation stand and sing
That Jesus is our God.

We will glorify, we will lift Him high

3] Jesus is the Father's splendour;
Jesus is the Father's joy.
He will return to reign in majesty,
And every eye at last shall see
That Jesus is our God.

We will glorify, we will lift Him high

Phil Lawson Johnston (b.1950)

Our lives can get overwhelming, daunting, and challenging. We can get discouraged, frustrated, and burned out by circumstances or relationships beyond our control. In the times where we feel hopeless and helpless, the best thing we can do is turn away from the challenges and toward the love of God. Saying a thanksgiving prayer can make a change in our heart and mind. When we remember that God is in control and we remember we have a Saviour who gives us strength when we are weak and comforts us in all our times of need. When we pause to count our blessings, there's no better way to express our gratitude than through a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for the life you have blessed me with. Thank you for the opportunities that I have been given and for the strength to make the most of them. Thank you for guiding me through difficult times and for giving me the courage to face whatever comes my way. Most of all, thank you for your unconditional love and support, which has seen me through every challenge and kept me going. You are an ever-present source of comfort and hope, and I am deeply grateful for all that you have done for me. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive me when I don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help me to set our eyes and our heart on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill me with your peace and joy. I love you and I need you, this day and every day. I give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! Amen

Hymn

1] What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

2] Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3] Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge— Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

Joseph Scriven (1819-1886)

Luke 8: 26-39 Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man

They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

Reflection

If we define "demons" as those forces which have captured us and prevented us from becoming what God intends us to be, we are as surrounded by as many demons as those who Jesus encountered. Our demons can be of many kinds: mental illnesses, schizophrenia, paranoia, addictions, obsessions, destructive habits, fear and loneliness and so on. They can cause them to feel trapped in that condition, and they can separate the person from normal living. Many of us can suffer from the same kind of snares and burdens.

The point of this story, as well as all the demon-healing stories in the Gospels is that the power of God can cast out demons, and set people free from all that stops us living life in all its fullness. The seventy persons sent out by Jesus soon afterward came back and reported, no doubt with astonishment, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!"

Psalms 22, 19-24 is about the Lord's power to help those in distress.

But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honour him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one, he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

At the end of the verse, the psalmist shifts from the third person to the first person. The psalmist wants us to understand that he is the afflicted one that has received the Lord's protection. The prayer for God's intervention in v. 19 has been answered. The psalmist knows that he owes it all to God. In response, the thankful poet promises to fulfil his vow. In his plan of action, the act of worship will not be private. It will be public, for he is going to praise and commit himself in the presence of the congregation, who will also share in the praise for God's graciousness.

At the end of the story in Luke, the man "had been healed," a word from the Greek *sozo*, which can also be translated "saved," "delivered," or "made whole." He is not only delivered from the demon and not only "cured" of the terrible burden, but had been altogether "healed" and "saved." That leads into the important last verse of the story: "So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him."

If we feel that we are bound or fearful in any way, we can cry out to the Lord, just like the psalmist and receive the peace that Jesus offers. We have recently celebrated Pentecost, the coming of the holy spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says this "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom". When we know this freedom, we can do as the man in Luke's gospel. We can tell those we meet how much Jesus has done for us.

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

Prayer

Lord, I come before You, embracing the truth that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. I pray for the power of the Spirit of life to set me free from the chains of sin and death. Grant me the strength to walk in Your freedom, understanding that Your grace covers all my weaknesses and faults. Amen

Hymn

1] And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior'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, should die for me?

3] 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.

2] '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.

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

5] 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. *Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Intercession Prayers

For Healing: Heavenly Father, we pray for your healing touch upon those suffering in body, mind, or spirit. May Your comforting presence bring healing and peace.

For Peace: Lord, we pray for peace in troubled regions of the world. Guide leaders towards reconciliation and protect the innocent from harm.

For Government Leaders: Sovereign Lord, guide our leaders with wisdom, integrity, and a heart for justice. Help them to serve diligently for the common good.

For the Bereaved: Comforting Father, be near those who mourn. Provide comfort in their loss and hope in their despair, reminding them of Your eternal love.

For the Church: Almighty God, guide Your Church in truth and love. Empower its witness to Your Kingdom, uniting believers in Your purpose. We ask all our prayers in Jesus' name. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

1] The Spirit lives to set us free,
Walk, walk in the light;
He binds us all in unity,
Walk, walk in the light.

*Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord*

2] Jesus promised life to all,
Walk, walk in the light;
The dead were wakened by his call.
Walk, walk in the light;
Walk in the light.....

3] He died in pain on Calvary,
Walk, walk in the light;
To save the lost like you and me,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light.....

4] We know His death was not the end,
Walk, walk in the light;
He gave his Spirit to be our friend,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light.....

5] The Spirit lives in you and me,
Walk, walk in the light;
His light will shine for all to see,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light.....

Damien Lundy (1944-1997)

Blessing

May God's Spirit surround you,
and those whom you love.
Rest now, in that calm embrace,
let your hearts be warmed
and all storms be stilled
by the whisper of his voice.

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