



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 27th September 2026

compiled by Dean James - Worship Leader

Call to Worship

Worship isn't about how we feel - it's about who God is. When we ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name, we are responding to His infinite worth. His holiness sets Him apart from everything we know, and yet in His mercy, He invites us to draw near. That is the wonder of worship: the Holy One allows intimacy. So when we sing, speak, or kneel before Him, let it be with a heart that delights in the beauty of His holiness.

Psalm 4: 34:3

"Glorify the Lord with me; let us exult His name together"

Hymn

1] Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God almighty.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God almighty.
Who was, and is, and is to come,
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

2] Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord,
Worthy is the Lord God almighty.
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord,
Worthy is the Lord God almighty.
Who was, and is, and is to come,
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord.

3] Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God almighty.
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God almighty.
Who was, and is, and is to come,
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.

4] Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,
Glory to the Lord God almighty.
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,
Glory to the Lord God almighty.
Who was, and is, and is to come,
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord.

Anon

Prayer based on Psalm 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

We thank you Lord for forgiving all our iniquity. "If we confess our sins, you are faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness". Thank you for healing us inside and out and redeeming our life. You crown us with steadfast love and mercy. You LORD work righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. You LORD are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Thank you for not dealing with us according to our sins, or repaying us according to our iniquities. Lord, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is your steadfast love toward those who honour You; as far as the east is from the west, so far You removes our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, You LORD show compassion to those who honour You.

Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

1] Restore, O Lord,
The honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

2] Restore, O Lord,
In all the earth Your fame,
And in our time revive
The church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
Whose mercy shall outlast the years.

3] Bend us, O Lord,
Where we are hard and cold,
In Your refiner's fire
Come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes
And evil crouches near,
Still our living God
Is reigning, He is reigning here.

4] Restore, O Lord,
The honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Graham Kendrick (b.1950) & Chris Rolinson (b.1958)

Reading: Matthew 21: 23-32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism - where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?"

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin' - we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

The Parable of the Two Sons

"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax

collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Reflection

Everything that we do says something about who we are and what we believe. Right after the chief priests and the elders refused to answer Jesus' question, Jesus told them a parable about two sons. A father of two sons bids them to go to work in his vineyard. The first one said no and then later changed his mind and went. The second one said, yes but didn't go and work. So when Jesus asked them which son did the will of their father, they naturally answered the first. It was then that Jesus told the chief priests and the elders that there were sinners who were going ahead of them into the kingdom of God. Jesus was pointing out to them that they were like the second son in the parable who said that he would go and did not live up to his word.

Jesus has the right to upset "our" world. The term authority means "the ability/right to do something." But this is different than the strength or power to do something. The authority being asked about the right to command others - "what gives you the right?" But as they put it, they're asking, "Who gave you this right to do what you're doing?" In that day, the authority would carry the rights of the person that sent them. John 1 makes it clear why Jesus has the right to do what He does - He is God.

John 1:1-4 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that has been made.'

Jesus has the right to upset OUR world because it was never OUR world in the first place. Jesus has the right to question people's sincerity. Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" He promises that He will answer their question. But they need to answer a very simple one first. He asks them their opinion on who's authority John spoke from. In other words, who sent Joh.

More specifically, He asked them about John's baptism. These leaders didn't see anything wrong with Jews. They'd say, "Why would Jews need to repent?" But John was calling for the Jewish people to repent in preparing their hearts for the Messiah. The Messiah that John was pointing toward. Jesus. Jesus had only given them two options -If John's baptism was from God, God wanted Israel to repent then God had given John authority.

This would mean that Jesus's authority is from God, because He's the ONE who John was proclaiming. If John's baptism was from man - it carried no authority over them. This would mean that the people were being told they were wrong for following him. By refusing to answer, the religious leaders show that they are not interested in truth. But just trying to catch Jesus out. Jesus does have authority/rights over all because He IS GOD.

God is the source of any legitimate authority. Jesus has the final say in guiding us how to live our lives. What areas of our lives have we allowed Jesus to have His say in how you should conduct yourself? What areas have you thought that Jesus doesn't have the authority to rule in?

We all have these. We all have these! But growing in Christ means allowing Him to reign in more and more of our lives. What situations do you think that you don't need to let Christ reign in? Is it when you get hurt, angry, scared, under strong temptation?

What does growth in Christ look like for us? Is it lifting up our lives afresh, and say, "Lord, You are the Lord over all my life, I want You to have Your full reign over it, I surrender it to You." Amen

Hymn

1] I will offer up my life in spirit and truth
Pouring out the oil of love as my worship to You
In surrender I must give my every part
Lord, receive the sacrifice of a broken heart

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung
As a praise of Your name for the things You have done?
O my words could not tell, not even in part
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.*

2] You deserve my every breath for You've paid the great cost
Giving up Your life to death, even death on a cross
You took all my shame away, there defeated my sin
Opened up the gates of heaven and have beckoned me in

Jesus, what can I give

Matt Redman (b.1974)

Pray for those in need of Gods love, comfort and strength at this time.

Blessing

Psalm 25:4-5

Lord, Show us your ways, Lord, teach us your paths.
Guide us in your truth and teach us, for you are God our Saviour,
and our hope is in you all day long.

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