

Praise for God's Universal Glory

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Psalm 148

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150

Praise for God's Surpassing Greatness

Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

The Call of David

Samuel did what the Lord commanded,
and came to Bethlehem.

The elders of the city came to meet him trembling,
and said, 'Do you come peaceably?'
He said, 'Peaceably;
I have come to sacrifice to the Lord;
sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.'

And he sanctified Jesse and his sons
and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought,
'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.'

The Call of David But the Lord said to Samuel,
'Do not look on his appearance
or on the height of his stature,
because I have rejected him;

**for the Lord does not see as mortals see;
they look on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart.'**

Then Jesse called Abinadab,
and made him pass before Samuel.
He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.'
Then Jesse made Shammah pass by.
And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.'
Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel,
and Samuel said to Jesse,
'The Lord has not chosen any of these.'

The Call of David

Samuel said to Jesse,
'Are all your sons here?' And he said,

'There remains yet the youngest,
but he is keeping the sheep.'

And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him;
for we will not sit down until he comes here.'
He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy,
and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.
The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.'

Then Samuel took the horn of oil,
and anointed him in the presence of his brothers;
and the spirit of the Lord came mightily
upon David from that day forward.
Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged and who was
expecting a child.

While they were there,
the time came for her to deliver her
child. And she gave birth to her
firstborn son

and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them
in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them,
'Do not be afraid; for see—

I am bringing you good news of great joy
for all the people:

to you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour,

who is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign for you:

you will find a child wrapped in
bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among
those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,

'Let us go now to Bethlehem and
see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.'

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known
what had been told them about this child;

and all who heard it were amazed
at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words
and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them,
'Do not be afraid; for see—

I am bringing you good news of great joy
for all the people:

to you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour,

who is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign for you:

you will find a child wrapped in
bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among
those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,

'Let us go now to Bethlehem and
see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.'

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known
what had been told them about this child;

and all who heard it were amazed
at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words
and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.

In the time of King Herod,
after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,

wise men from the East
came to Jerusalem,
asking,
'Where is the child
who has been born king of the Jews?

For we observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened,
and all Jerusalem with him;

and calling together all the chief priests
and scribes of the people, he inquired of them
where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea;
for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men
and learned from them the exact time
when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
'Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him, bring me word
so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out;
and there, ahead of them,
went the star that they had seen at its rising,
until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2 : 1-12 (cont'd)

When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child
with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure-chests,
they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
And having been warned in a dream
not to return to Herod,

they left for their own country
by another road.

When the sabbath was over,
Mary Magdalene,

and Mary the mother of James,
and Salome bought spices,
so that they might go and anoint him.

And very early on the first day of the week,
when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

The Resurrection of Jesus

They had been saying to one another,
'Who will roll away the stone for us
from the entrance to the tomb?'

When they looked up, they saw that the stone,
which was very large,
had already been rolled back.
As they entered the tomb,
they saw a young man,
dressed in a white robe,
sitting on the right side;

and they were alarmed.

The Resurrection of Jesus

But he said to them,

'Do not be alarmed;
you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth,
who was crucified.

He has been raised; he is not here.

Look,

there is the place they laid him.'

The Holy Spirit Helps Us To Pray

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Mark 12:41-44

The Widow's Offering

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large amounts.

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are giving to the treasury.

For all of them have given out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?'

He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.'

And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

Jesus replied,

'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.

Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend."

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?

He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.'

Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

The miracle of the Man at the Pool

After this there was a festival of the Jews,
and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool,
called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes.

In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed.
One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew
that he had been there a long time,
he said to him,
'Do you want to be made well?'

The miracle of the Man at the Pool

The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up;

and while I am making my way,
someone else steps down ahead of me.'

Jesus said to him, '
Stand up, take your mat and walk.'

At once the man was made well,
and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying,

'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'

When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean.

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean?'

But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?'

Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding
in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,
'They have no wine.'

And Jesus said to her,
'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?
My hour has not yet come.'

The Wedding at Cana

His mother said to the servants,
'Do whatever he tells you.'
Now standing there were six stone
water-jars for the Jewish rites of
purification, each holding twenty or thirty
gallons.

Jesus said to them,
'Fill the jars with water.'
And they filled them up to the brim.
He said to them,

'Now draw some out, and take it to the
chief steward.'

The Wedding at Cana

So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.

But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you,
command me to come to you on the water.'
He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat,
started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus.
But when he noticed the strong wind,
he became frightened,
and beginning to sink,
he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'
Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him,
saying to him, '
You of little faith, why did you doubt?'