



Contemporary Service, Sunday December 27th

We Praise You

Let praise be a weapon that silences the enemy
Let praise be a weapon that conquers all anxiety
Let it rise, let praise arise

We sing Your name in the dark and it changes everything
We sing with all we are and we claim Your victory
Let it rise, let praise arise

We'll see You break down every wall
We'll watch the giants fall
Fear cannot survive when we praise You
The God of breakthrough's on our side
Forever lift Him high
With all creation cry God we praise You

Let faith be the song that overcomes the raging sea
Let faith be the song that calms the storm inside of me
Let it rise, let faith arise

We'll see You break down every wall
We'll watch the giants fall
Fear cannot survive when we praise You
The God of breakthrough's on our side
Forever lift Him high
With all creation cry God we praise You

This is what living looks like
This is what freedom feels like
This is what heaven sounds like
We praise You, we praise You

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With all creation cry God we praise You

To God Be The Glory

From the waking dawn, hear all creation roar
And through the starlit night
With earth and angels cry

To God be the glory, to God be the glory
We give You the glory, forever amen

See Him crucified, love held Him to that cross
The grave where Jesus lay
Could not defeat His name, could not defeat His name

To God be the glory, to God be the glory
We give You the glory, forever amen

Hallelujah, praise Him, praise His name
Hallelujah forever be glorified
Hallelujah, praise Him, praise His name
Hallelujah forever be glorified
Forever be glorified

To God be the glory, to God be the glory
We give You the glory, forever amen

To God be the glory, to God be the glory
We give You the glory, forever amen

Luke 2:22-40 (NRSV)

“When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.”

Exodus 13: 13a-15

Every firstborn male among your children you shall redeem. When in the future your child asks you, “What does this mean?” you shall answer, “By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human firstborn to the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD every male that first opens the womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.” It shall serve as a sign on your hand and as an emblem on your forehead that by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.’

Isaiah 40:1

“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.”

Israel’s consolation and the salvation of the Gentiles will not be without great cost. Jesus will bring truth to light and in so doing throw all who come into contact with him into a crisis of decision. Jesus precipitates the centrally important movement of one’s life, toward or away from God. ... anyone who turns on light creates shadows.” Fred Craddock

Interpretation Bible Commentary Series on The Gospel of Luke

”Tell me how it is with you and Jesus, and I’ll tell you who you are.” Karl Barth

“Overthrowing the Emperor,” *The Orthodox Heretic and Other Impossible Tales*, Peter Rollins

God With Us

Be not dismayed, fear not the darkness
Jesus is here, He walks beside us
Gracious is He, through all our weakness
Forever faithful, forever good

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us
Living inside, Emmanuel

Lift up our eyes, to the Maker of heaven
He is our help, forever present
Faithful is He, He is our constant
Forever faithful, forever good

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us
Living inside, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us
Living inside, Emmanuel

No matter what, what storm may come
Our God is here, our God is here
When fear gives in, when darkness runs
Our God is here, our God is here

No matter what, what storm may come
Our God is here, our God is here
When fear gives in, when darkness runs
Our God is here, His name

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us
Living inside, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us
Living inside, Emmanuel

God with us
His name Emmanuel