

Section 28: The Sacrifice of Praise

1) P1: Let us now begin to make a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, (Psalm 116:17) worshipping the [one true] God by recalling His divine attribute of [holiness, His moral purity and complete freedom from any trace of evil or sin]

Another divine attribute may be defined in place of holiness. For possible alternatives, please refer to Section 15.

Alternatively, this present section may begin with a reading from one clause of the Leeds Creed.¹ If so, the following alternative beginning may be used, "*Let us now begin to make a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, worshipping God by recalling the teachings we need to follow, saying together clause n of the Leeds Creed.*" (A clause from Section 13 should then be read out.)

A brief pause may follow

2) P1: Let us now, with heartfelt gratitude for all of His blessings [immeasurably great salvation], and with a wisely expressed zeal [enthusiasm] begin our sacrifice of praise by saying: -

3) All:

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord! (Psalm 107:8a)

Yes! Praise You Lord!

For being our Lord! (Psalm 111:1)²

4) P1: Let us now worship God as Trinity [an Echad oneness] – a union of three Persons [not three influences]

5) All:

Praise you, bless you, thank you

God the Father,

God the Son and

God the Holy Spirit

One in three and three in One;

Blessed Creator,

Precious Redeemer,

Wonderful Sustainer,

Plurality in oneness and

Oneness in plurality;

The God of Abraham,

The God of Isaac and

The God of Jacob,

Trinity in unity and unity in Trinity;

One Mystery,

One Singularity,

One Trinity,

Amen, Amen and Amen.

(Exodus 3:6, Matthew 28:19 & 2 Corinthians 13:14)

6) P1: "*You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created*" (Revelation 4:11)

7) P2: "*Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits upon the throne, and to the lamb forever and ever, Amen,*" (Revelation 5:14)

¹ One attribute or clause may be recited each week, ensuring all are heard over a twelve month period

² The praises in this section originated during 1985 with **5)** being greatly enlarged in July 1998

8) P1: Let us continue to use scripture to worship the living God who even today can change lives and work miracles. Together, as one community [fellowship] may we draw upon God's Word and say...

9) All:

*"Praise the Lord,
Praise God in His sanctuary:
Praise Him in the firmament of His power.
Praise Him for His mighty acts:
Praise Him for His excellent greatness.
Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet:
Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.
Praise Him with the timbrel [drums] and dance:
Praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.
Praise Him upon the loud cymbals:
Praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise you the Lord (Psalm 150)*

A different passage from scripture read in order to provide variety

10) P1: May we now focus our adoration upon the majestic person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, our true Saviour who forgives and cleanses our many sins

11) All: He is *"The way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father but by"* Him! (John 14:6) *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12)

12) P1: Together [as one body], let us worship Jesus as our *"Lord and [our] God"* (John 20:28b) by saying: -

13) All:

Praise you Jesus, for who you were and for what you did,
Praise you Jesus, for who you are and for what you are doing,
Praise you Jesus, for who you will be and for what you will do,
Praise you Jesus, now and for all eternity.
For you are *"the same yesterday, today, and forever,"* Amen (Hebrews 13:8)³

14) P1: Moreover, may we now praise Jesus for His work of redemption...

15) All: Wherein, as perfect God, he became perfect Man in order to offer a perfect sacrifice for sin, (Philippians 2:5-11 & Hebrews 5:9)

16) P1: Finally, let us all join together in saying the following words of praise with the great multitude of Saints [from all nations and peoples] who, having gone before us, now stand before the throne of God, worshipping Him with a noisy enthusiasm and crying aloud: -

17) C; *"Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne and to Lamb!"*

18) P1:

Although we are expressly forbidden by scripture to communicate with [or make prayer to] the departed [who are now firmly in God's hands] (Leviticus 19:31, 20:6, 1 Samuel 28:8f & Luke 16:19f) we may, however, join these witnesses (Hebrews 12:1) in praising God and His Son Jesus. He is the only person in the afterlife whom we are allowed to contact or to pray to. This is because He is the one true mediator between God and us (1Timothy 2:5).

³ This prayer of praise first came to mind in late September 1976 when walking around St John's Church, central Newcastle upon Tyne.

19) All:

*We praise you, O God;⁴
We acknowledge you to be the Lord
All the earth worships you,
The Father everlasting, clothed in infinite majesty
The only begotten Son, honourable and true
And the Holy Ghost; the Comforter*

*All of the Angels and Powers in Heaven
In noisy exuberance joyfully praise you
To you the cherubs and seraphim continually cry,
'Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of hosts;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of your glory'*

*The glorious company of the Apostles praises you,
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praises you,
The noble army of Martyrs praises you
The holy Church throughout the entire world
Acknowledges and praises you, loudly exclaiming: -*

*"You are the King of Glory, O Christ
You are the everlasting Son of the Father
When you chose to deliver Mankind
You did not abhor the Virgin's womb
When you had overcome the sharpness of death
You opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all who would believe
You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.
We believe that you shall come to be our Judge."*

*We therefore pray to you, help your servants
Whom you have redeemed with your precious blood
Number them with your Saints in everlasting glory
O Lord, save your people and bless your heritage.
Govern them and lift them up forever*

*Day by day we magnify you
And we worship your Name,
Now and forever, world without end;
Vouchsafe, O Lord to keep us this day without sin
O Lord, have mercy upon us;
Have mercy upon us, O Lord
Let your mercy remain upon us;
As our trust is in you*

*O Lord, in you have I trusted;
Let me never be confounded.*

A brief pause may follow

⁴ These are the slightly re-ordered words of an anonymous late fourth to early fifth century Christian Hymn, the 'Te Deum Laudamus' (Latin for 'You God we praise'). (A 'Te Deum' is simply a hymn of praise set to music.)

20) P1: May we now add to our worship by saying...

21) All:

Praise you, bless you, and thank you Lord Jesus Christ: -
Our Prophet, (Deuteronomy 18:18)
Priest (Hebrews 4:14)
And King (John 1:49)
Our Saviour, (Titus 1:4c)
Lord (Acts 1:21b)
And God (John 20:28b)
Our first love (Revelation 2:4)

You who has redeemed us (Revelation 5:9)
With your precious blood (1 Peter 1:19)
All good things come
From and through you (Revelation 15:3b-4)
Yes! You Jesus, (Matthew 1:21)
The Messiah of Israel (Daniel 9:25-26)
The Lord of Creation, (Colossians 1:15-18)
The King of the Judgement Day (Matthew 7:21-23)
And the friend of sinners, (Matthew 11:19)⁵

22) P1: May we now, in God's strength, joyfully witness to all of the truths revealed in scripture, (Hosea 1:1a)

23) All:

We witness to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28:19)
We witness to *'the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,'* (Exodus 3:6)
We witness to the one true God of Israel; (Numbers 16:9)
A witness to all of Mankind (1 John 5:9)⁶

24) P1: With all structured praise now completed let us quietly praise the Lord in words of our own choosing

After allowing people to quietly praise God in their own words, the Presiding Participant may invite people to say or sing words of praise aloud (in a clear and orderly manner)

Pause: A chorus, hymn or psalm may be announced and sung

⁵ This word of praise had virtually assumed its present form by the mid 1980's

⁶ This proclamation of faith was first drafted in March 1997