# <u>a sermon from PSALM 100:1-5:</u> PRAISE YE THE LORD!

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#### I. A PRAYER

Let us praise The LORD: "Our Father Who art in Heaven, You completely fill heaven and earth with the immensity of Your being; You are present everywhere; You are in the saints by Your glory, in the damned by Your justice, in the good by Your Grace, even in sinners by Your patience... Grant that we may always remember that we come from You and that we may live as Your true children. Grant that we may set our true course according to Your will and never swerve from You. Grant that we may use our every power, our hearts and souls and strength to tend toward You, and You alone!" <sup>1</sup> In CHRIST our Lord, AMEN.

# **II. A PROPOSITION**

O praise ye The LORD and serve Him with gladness with every breath, all who are saved by His Grace at The blessed Cross of CHRIST, for His is all goodness, mercy and truth!

# III. A SCRIPTURE - PSALM 100 - "A PSALM OF PRAISE" TO THE LORD!

- 1 Make a joyful noise unto The LOD, all ye lands.
- 2 Serve The LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing.
- 3 Know ye that The Lord He is GOD: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
- 4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name.
- 5 For The LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting: and His truth endureth to all generations. <sup>2</sup>

#### **IV. INTRODUCTION**

Many of The PSALMS indicate who wrote them in their title line, but this is not the case with PSALM 100. We don't know who wrote This PSALM, but we certainly know its purpose, for it is titled simply "A PSALM of Praise." <sup>3</sup> The Hebrew Text gives this title as – MIZMOR LETODAH – מַּלְנְעוֹר לְּתוֹרָה - meaning literally "A melody for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 1, Catholic Family Prayer Book, A Prayer to The Father, St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, p 182.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 100:1-5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 100. Title reads simply, "A PSALM of Praise."

Of all The PSALMS after PSALM 23, This is perhaps the best known among faithful Christian people! It's appeal spans the thousands of years of Hebrew worship and into two millennia of The Church! And no wonder, for as Spurgeon says, "It is ablaze with grateful adoration, and has for this reason been a great favourite with the people of GOD ever since it was written." Indeed, This PSALM is often sung to the tune of "The Old Hundredth," a song of the faithful Church unto GOD for His great love and blessings showered upon we His people! <sup>7</sup>

# IV. PSALM 100:1 - LET US SING JOYFUL PRAISES TO THE LORD!

PSALMS 100:1 declares, "Make a joyful noise unto The LORD, all ye lands!" <sup>8</sup> We are told to "make a joyful noise" to GOD! Why?

Calvin counsels us to hear the call of The Psalmist, who "...invites the whole of the inhabitants of the earth indiscriminately to praise JEHOVAH, ...[seeing], in The Spirit of prophecy, to refer to the period when The Church would be gathered out of different nations" from all the lands of the earth! <sup>9</sup> And indeed, The Church has spread to

 $^5$  4, Whittaker's R-BDB Lexicon, B2673 MIZMOR מזכור - noun - melody: technical distinguishing of PSALMS. Noun common masculine singular absolute, page 274.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 3, BHS, PSALM 100:1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 4, Whittaker's R-BDB Lexicon, B3835 TODAH הְּלְּדֶה – noun – thanksgiving: 1. give praise to..., praise rendered by acknowledging and abandoning sin. 2. thanksgiving in songs of liturgical worship. 3. thanksgiving choir, procession, line, company. 4. thank-offering. Noun common feminine singular absolute, page 392.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 5, Spurgeon, Treasury of David, Volume 2, PSALM C, Title, p 233.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 100:1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 6, Calvin's Commentaires, Volume VI, PSALMS 93-150, PSALM C, [Verses 1-3], page 83.

all the four corners of the earth since our Lord called Her out from among both faithful Jews and Gentiles! The Great Commission itself fulfills what the psalmist foresaw here as in MATTHEW 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in The Name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Ghost!" <sup>10</sup>

And we, being grafted into that holy salvation by The very Body and Blood of The Lamb of GOD given up to redeem our lives and souls back to Him, should be filled with constant joy for such a gift! Saint Peter declares this great Gift of which the psalmist foresees in I PETER 1:7-9, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of JESUS CHRIST. Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory; Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls!" 11

Of all the joys which GOD gives, is not the very salvation of our souls through JESUS CHRIST the most precious? Is this not a reason to "make a joyful noise unto The LORD?" Thus, let us be joyful in Him! Praise ye The LORD!

# V. PSALM 100:2 - LET US SERVE THE LORD IN GLADNESS!

PSALM 100:2 declares, "Serve The LORD with gladness: come before His Presence with singing!" <sup>12</sup> We are told to "serve The LORD with gladness." Why?

Calvin sees The Psalmist pointing his finger to wayward and vain man "... to bethink themselves [of their idolatry], and to cease from robbing GOD of the honour due to His Name; and, at the same time, ... [he preaches] against their folly in that, not content with the one GOD, they were become vain in their imaginations" with instead many false

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 28:19. <sup>11</sup> 2, KJV, I PETER 1:7-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 100:2.

ones! <sup>13</sup> Our hope and peace does not rest in things of the world, the flesh or the devil, but only in The LORD Who created us and all things!

Let us cast away all our foolish idols of life and return unto The LORD our Maker at The Cross of CHRIST! For there and only there will we be able to serve Him "with gladness" and "come before His Presence with singing" of praise and gladness! Let us instead join David as in PSALM 16:8-11, "I have set The LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth; my flesh also shall rest in hope. For Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy Presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore!" <sup>14</sup>

Of all the reasons for gladness which GOD gives us, is He not always at our right hand with never failing hope and life through JESUS CHRIST? Is this not a reason to "be glad in The LORD?" Thus, let us be glad in Him! Praise ye The LORD!

#### VI. PSALM 100:3 – KNOW THAT ONLY THE LORD IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD!

PSALM 100:3 sings out, "Know ye that The Lord He is GOD: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture!" <sup>15</sup> We are told that GOD is our "Shepherd." Why?

Calvin says here that The Psalmist calls all who are saved by GOD's Grace, who are "His people and the sheep of His Pasture" to sing out in happy thanksgiving for "...that spiritual regeneration by which He creates anew His Image in His elect. ...[who are the] workmanship of GOD, because they are created unto good works, which GOD

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 6, Calvin's Commentaries, Volume VI, PSALMS 93-150, PSALM C, [Verses 1-3], page 83-84

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 16:8-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 100:3.

hath before ordained that they should walk in them!" 16

The Christian man, more than any other, knows that The Lord is GOD! For once we were lost, but now we are saved in CHRIST. Once we were dead in our sin, but now we live again as the sons and daughters of The living GOD. Once we had no hope in this life or the next, but now He Who is our Everlasting Hope has rescued us from all darkness!

As Spurgeon says, no man "...can know himself until he knows his GOD.

JEHOVAH is GOD in the fullest, most absolute, and most exclusive sense, He is GOD alone; to know Him in that character and prove our knowledge [of Him in our lives] by obedience, trust, submission, zeal and love is... [the only true end of man] which only Grace can bestow!" <sup>17</sup> O, happy is the man who is washed by the water and The Blood in His Spirit at The Cross of CHRIST!

The King of The Universe comes Incarnate as fully GOD and fully Man but without sin, there to give up His life, that we may live in fellowship with Him both now and forever! So Saint John records These Words of our Lord in JOHN 10:9-11, "[JESUS said,] I am the door; by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am The Good Shepherd: The Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep!" <sup>18</sup>

Of all the hopes which GOD gives us, is not that The very Son of GOD Himself is our Good Shepherd the most glorious? That we are His people blessed with eternal life through the love of JESUS CHRIST? Is this not reason to rejoice in The LORD our Good Shepherd? Thus, let us be the grateful people of GOD our Shepherd! Praise ye The LORD!

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 6, Calvin's Commentaries, Volume VI, PSALMS 93-150, PSALM C, [Verses 1-3], paragraph 1, page 84.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 5, Spurgeon, Treasury of David, Volume 2, PSALM C, 3, p 234.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 2, KJV, JOHN 10:9-11.

#### VII. PSALM 100:4 – COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKFUL PRAISE!

PSALM 100:4 calls us, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name!" <sup>19</sup> We are told to "enter into His courts with praise" and to "bless His Name." Why?

By His great mercy, we enter into His Presence – in part in this life through His faithful Church – and in full in the next life into Heaven! How can we then not "bless His Name" and "be thankful unto Him?" For as Spurgeon says here, "So long as we are receivers of [His] mercy, we must be givers of thanks [to Him]. Mercy permits us to enter into His gates; let us praise that mercy..." every moment that He grants us the breath of life in this life! <sup>20</sup> This, so that we who are redeemed by The Saviour's sacrifice given up for us may then forever "enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise" Above!

When we rest in JESUS CHRIST, as Saint Paul assures us in PHILIPIANS 4:6-7, His peace is upon us, and our thankful joy is the fit reply of our hearts to Him: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know unto GOD. And the peace of GOD, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through CHRIST JESUS!" <sup>21</sup>

Of all the blessings which GOD bestows upon us, is not the very "peace of GOD which passeth all understanding" the most wonderous? Is this not reason to "enter into His courts with praise" to "bless His Name?" Thus, let us sing with grateful voices to Him! Praise ye The LORD!

#### VIII. PSALM 100:5 - THE LORD IS ALL GOODNESS, MERCY AND TRUTH!

PSALM 100:5 concludes, "For The LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting: and His truth endureth to all generations!" <sup>22</sup> We are told "The LORD is good." Why?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 100:4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> 5, Spurgeon, Treasury of David, PSALM C, 4., p 234. <sup>21</sup> 2, KJV, PHILIPIANS 4:6-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 100:5.

When The LORD called Moses to again receive the tablets upon which His very finger wrote again The Ten Commandments upon the mountain in EXODUS 34, The Almighty "...descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed The Name of The LORD. And The LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD GOD, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth!" <sup>23</sup> Here the psalmist declares The Name of GOD to us, Who is full of goodness, mercy and truth!

As Spurgeon says here, the everlasting goodness of GOD calls us to praise Him, for "He is good, gracious, kind, bountiful, loving: yea, GOD is love. He who does not praise the good [of GOD] is not good himself!" So also the everlasting mercy of GOD calls us to praise Him, for "GOD is not mere justice, stern and cold... Towards His own people [His] mercy... has been theirs from all eternity, and shall be theirs, world without end!" So also is the everlasting truth of GOD, which calls us to praise Him, for "He has entered into Covenant with His people, and He will never revoke it, nor alter the thing that has gone out of His lips!" <sup>24</sup>

From The Word of GOD recorded by Moses in The Torah, King David knew of GOD's character in his Name. And from the great blessings and deliverances which The LORD had showered upon David, he knew from personal experience that GOD was indeed full of goodness, mercy and truth. So David calls out to The Creator in PSALM 86:15-17, "But thou, O Lord, art a GOD full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give Thy strength unto Thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid. Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because Thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me!" <sup>25</sup>

Of all the gifts of GOD, is not His grace and mercy to us through JESUS CHRIST the most miraculous? Should we not proclaim now and for all eternity that "The LORD

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 34:5-6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> 5, Spurgeon, Treasury of David, Volume 2, PSALM C, 5., p 234-235.

is good?" Thus, let us rejoice that His Mercy is everlasting; that His Truth endureth forever! Praise ye The LORD!

#### IX. IN CLOSING – PRAISE YE THE LORD!

John Newton wrote these words, which sings with the psalmist in thankful joy to GOD for His wondrous and saving Grace, Which He so freely and lovingly showers upon us His saints at The blessed Cross:

How sweet The Name of JESUS sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.
JESUS, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring! <sup>26</sup>

We have seen what great causes we have to sing This PSALM of thankful praise to GOD The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost! PSALM 100:1 calls us to sing joyful praises to The LORD. PSALM 100:2 calls us to serve The LORD in gladness. PSALM 100:3 calls us to know that only The LORD is our Good Shepherd. PSALM 100:4 calls us again to come before His Presence with thankful praise. PSALM 100:5 gives us the cause for this call upon all that we are and do in Him, for The LORD is all goodness, mercy and truth from age to age, from everlasting to everlasting!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 86:15-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> 7, Logan, "The Preacher and Preaching," p 26.

O, my friends, indeed it is true – what a mighty GOD we serve! For as Spurgeon concludes, "Resting on His sure Word, we feel that joy which is here commanded [in PSALM 100], and in the strength of it we come into His Presence even now, and speak good of His Name!" <sup>27</sup> O praise ye The LORD and serve Him with gladness with every breath, all who are saved by His Grace at The blessed Cross of CHRIST, for His is all goodness, mercy and truth! For, as it is written, "Make a joyful noise unto The LOD, all ye lands!" <sup>28</sup> In The Name of GOD The Father, and The Son and The Holy Ghost. AMEN.

<sup>27</sup> 5, Spurgeon, Treasury of David, Volume 2, PSALM C, 5., p 235.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 100:1.

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