



Praise Praise Praise

By Scott Mueller

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8:30 a.m. Service

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Scriptures consulted: Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

May the meditations of my heart and the words of my mouth be pleasing unto You Lord and useful to the preparation of Your Kingdom, in Jesus Christ name we pray.

Praise to You God Almighty creator of the heavens in all their vast brilliance and wonder. Praise to You perfect architect for bringing together the elements to create the life giving waters of Mothers seas rivers lakes and marshes. Praise to Your power of awesome fire that gave rise to the firmaments, the continents islands and mountains upon which You placed all green growing things, plants trees fruits and grains providing sustenance for all the creatures You brought forth from Mothers waters of life. Praise to You for the smallest creeping crawling and slithering things, to all the many beasts that You clothed with a limitless variety of fur feathers wool and scales, colors textures and camouflages. Praise to Your magnificent artistry not only for the decorations of Your orchids and lilies Your lilacs and roses but also the autumn mosaics of your oaks maples birches and sycamores. Praise to You Father God for creating us with our senses of sight smell hearing taste and touch, that through our awareness of Your generous abundance of gifts we may be filled with joy wonder and reverence at Your gracious Love of us. Praise you scientist of the molecule that carries on the wind the fragrances of your blossoms, the joyful aroma of Your roses and lilacs the freshness of a spring rain an ocean breeze or even the smell of a distant unhappy skunk. Praise to You Great composer who fills our ears with an abundance of Mothers songs and melodies, the vast play list of birds' insects and frogs, the haunting songs of Mothers guardians, the Great Whales, the rhythm of raindrops on the leaves, wind through the trees, and the silence of a snowflake. Praise You! Praise You! Praise You! For the sound of the human voice weather it be singing thankfulness and praises to You through songs and the sharing of your Holy Sacred Text or the whispered words of Love appreciation or encouragement to another. Maybe a necessary emotional or social out crying of wailing and loud lament against injustice oppression or the pain of grief, or the simple communication of basic need from a crying child.

Praise to You Dear Father most of all for the awareness of Your most precious gift to man kind, Your Son Jesus Christ. Who You sent to us not only to be the savior of our eternal souls, but first to be made our Brother in the flesh through the Christmas miracle of the virgin birth. As You have revealed to us through scripture, the divine spirit of Jesus had to become like us, his brothers and sisters, the sons of Abraham, and share with us not only the flesh and blood of our mortal bodies, but also the tests trials and temptations of the human condition. So that , as Hebrews 2:17 states; ' He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.' And through his obedience to Your purpose even unto death on the cross, He freed all of us, His brothers and sisters, from the bonds of slavery and

death to sin. Through His victory over the grave and ultimately victory over the devil himself, Jesus paid the ransom for the souls of every person that has ears to hear the good news of the Loving mercy of The Lamb's perfect sacrifice, and the faith and will to believe that His resurrection from death's tomb and ascension into the heavenly kingdom of eternal Glory is all that is necessary for our souls to be ushered home with Jesus to eternal blissful Glory.

I praise You Father for the awareness of all these things, but even as the blessings of this awareness's is upon me, I am also painfully aware that many of your precious children will never hear the good news of the Christmas story. With the knowledge of that truth in mind I know how truly blessed I am. Therefore I must lovingly and humbly respond to the incredible gift of Your Son Christ the Lamb and the Grace filled selfless act that He obediently performed for me, an unworthy sinner. Not because I believe that my response will gain me favor in Your sight, for nothing I can say think or do would change Your loving desire to bring me and all of Your children home. But to respond from a sense of deep and profound gratitude for Your Grace, that is; (the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God), with an attempt to be as obedient to Your will as was the sometimes forgotten or downplayed man of the Christmas story. God chose a very special and devout man to be the human father and guardian to the messiah. Consider for a moment the extent of Joseph's obedience. The unwavering faithfulness he displayed in following the directions of the angel of the Lord's commands first to take Mary as his wife even though she was found to be with child before they came together. Continuing in today's Gospel immediately and faithfully carrying out what had been told to him in the warnings of his dreams. The ideal of that level of obedience is the vision of the response that I would like to commit to perfectly and unwaveringly to display my humble gratitude to the loving mercy that God has, is and will continue to bestow on me. Thankfully my past failures in areas of discipline and obedience have no power to revisit me in the moment, and can only rob me of my hope for success in the future if I allow them to.

So again I praise You Precious Father, I praise You Merciful Brother Jesus, Lamb of God and I praise You Protective and Healing Holy Spirit Light in the Darkness. I praise You for the wisdom of my broken past. I praise You for the awareness of the blessings of this moment. And I praise You for the certainty of the promise of Your Glorious Kingdom.

Amen

Scott Mueller