



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God
God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

[I have prepared this devotional in light of the governor's mandate to not allow singing in worship, and in light of our elders decision to continue singing in worship.]

Scripture

Scriptural reflections on singing, especially in worship.

There are over 400 references to singing.

Exodus 15:1-2 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,

"I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

² *The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him."*

1 Chronicles 16:9 Sing to him; sing praises to him, tell of all his wondrous works!

1 Chronicles 16:23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.

Job 38:7 The morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.

Psalms 63:3-4 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

⁴ *So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Psalms 89:1, 5 I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

⁵ *Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!*

Psalms 95:1-2 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² *Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

Psalms 100:1-2, 4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

² *Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!*

⁴ *Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!*

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Psalms 104:33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Psalms 150:1-6 Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!

² *Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!*

³ *Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!*

⁴ *Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!*

⁵ *Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!*

⁶ *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

Isaiah 35:10 The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 44:23 Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it; shout, O depths of the earth;
break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it!
For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.

Isaiah 49:13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

Matthew 26:30 When they [Jesus and His disciples] had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Luke 19:39-40 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Acts 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Ephesians 5:18b-20 Be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Hebrews 2:12 I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Revelation 5:9-12 They sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Song

Psalms 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;

Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

He is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend;

His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore, His goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

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Prayer

***II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, God of all glory, worthy of all praise and worship. You have created us to magnify your name, to exalt your goodness, to make much of your salvation and great works. And knowing that without your help and a part from you we can do nothing, you created music. What a glorious gift it is. You are a singing God and ours is a singing faith. You sing over us and we sing because of you.

You inspired 150 songs and put them in your Holy Word. You gave us voices to sing and make melody and harmony. You gave us instruments and skill to add to the chorus; flutes and oboes, violins and cellos, horns of every kind, clashing cymbals and thunder tympani, guitars and bass, pianos and organs. You have given us a rich variety of musical styles to express every mood and emotion in every culture, rhythm and blues, bluegrass and jazz, classical, country and contemporary, rock, pop and folk. And every culture adds to the voices, Celtic, Cajun and calypso.

What a grand symphony of auditory beauty all to your glory. All creation sings your praise, but nothing in creation has as much reason as those know the unsearchable riches of your redemption, even the angels are silenced and stand in awe at the wonders of your salvation. We cannot be more loved and we who have been forgiven so much cannot sing your praise high enough or long enough.

Every tear we shed will be redeemed and wiped away; even sin we have committed, or will commit, has already been forgiven and will never be remembered against us; every heartache, heartbreak and tribulation in life will be redeemed. Death has already died and eternal life has already begun; the evil one has already been defeated and all evil will be terminally eradicated; already your kingdom has come and, most assuredly, it will come in beatific fullness.

Grant, O Lord, that we may sing not only with our lips but with our heart, singing with all our mind, soul, will, desire and our whole being. Enable our lips of clay to do what you have formed and fashioned them most to do, to praise, bless, glorify and worship you, the Light above all Lights, the True Life, and the Salvation that abides from everlasting to everlasting.

To you we sing Holy! Holy! Holy! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We pray, in Jesus' exalted and most glorious name. Amen and Amen.