

## **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is wondrously reigning,  
Shelt’ring you under his wings, O, so gently sustaining,  
Have you not seen all you have needed has been  
met by his gracious ordaining.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the almighty can do  
if with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! O, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore Him!

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## **Psalm 103:1-13**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits — who forgives  
all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from  
the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you  
with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.  
The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He  
made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord  
is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not  
deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love  
toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he  
removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his  
children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

## Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister?

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

### Where Charity and Love Prevail

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love by love we thus are bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.

Let us recall that in our midst, dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
as members of each body joined, in him we are made one.

Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.

We now forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

## Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

### Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.