

Reflection

- Revelation 5:9-10

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

- John Piper

The scene is heaven. Opening the scroll signifies the unfolding of world history in the future. The apostle John weeps that no one is able to open the scroll. Then one of the heavenly beings says "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll" (5:5). This is a reference to Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Then the heavenly beings around the throne fall down and worship Christ. They sing a new song. Amazingly, the song announces that it is the death of Christ that makes him worthy to open the scroll of history. The implication is that Christ's death was necessary to accomplish God's global purposes in history. "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'" (5:9). Christ died to save a great diversity of peoples. Sin is no respecter of cultures. All peoples have sinned. Every race and culture needs to be reconciled to God. As the disease of sin is global, the remedy is global. Jesus saw the agony of the cross coming and spoke boldly about the scope of his purpose: "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). As he planned his death, he embraced the world. Already in the Old Testament his global impact was foretold: "Let the nations be glad and sing for joy" (Psalm 67:4). So when Jesus came to the end of his ministry on earth, he made his mission clear: "Go therefore and make disciples of *all nations*" (Matthew 28:19).

INGATHERING

Song of Preparation: *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
To renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity.
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;
May Your joy be seen in all I do—
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude,
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace.
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show your power once again on earth;
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
Will be clear for all the world to see.

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, ©2006 ThankYou Music , CCLI#2249825

Prayer of Preparation

PRAISE

***Call to Worship**

- John 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Let us reverence our God and Savior!

***Hymns of Praise**

Thou Art Worthy!

Thou art worthy, thou art worthy, thou art worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory, glory and honor, glory and honor and pow'r.
For thou hast created, hast all things created; thou hast created all things.
And for thy pleasure they are created; thou art worthy, O Lord.

Pauline M. Mills ©1963, 1975 Fred Bock Music Co., CCLI#2249825

#65: *Before Jehovah's Awesome Throne*

Prayer of Adoration**Affirmation of Faith**

- *Our World Belongs to God*

God holds this world in sovereign love.
He kept his promise, sending Jesus into the world.
He poured out his Spirit and broadcast his good news
that sinners who repent and believe in Jesus
can live and breathe and move again
as members of the family of God.

We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.
As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience,
and set free for joyful service,
we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in his world.
And we are confident
that the light that shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.
Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you!

RENEWAL

Call to Confession - Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water

Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 67 (p. 808)

Pastoral Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance - 1 John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God!

*Hymn of Assurance: *It is Well with My Soul*

My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought!—
my sin not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul)
it is well, it is well with my soul!

Welcome and Announcements

Please fill out and pass the friendship registration pad.

Offertory Words - 2 Corinthians 8:9

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Offertory Music: *How Beautiful* - Ruth Sneller

COMMITMENT

Scripture Reading - Acts 15:1-21 (Sanctuary Bible p. 1175)

Sermon: *By Grace Through Faith* - Rev. Bill Massey

***Hymn of Approach #524:** *Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ (1,4)*

God's Invitation and Promises - 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing in the Bread and the Cup

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Petition, and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

***Hymn #439:** *Christ Shall Have Dominion*

***Benediction**

***Please stand, if able to**