

## GOD'S PRESENCE, PROVISION, AND PURPOSE IN YOUR LIFE

### AS WE GATHER

When you feel all alone, remember this: you are not alone. First, you are not alone in feeling that way. In today's Old Testament Reading, you will see how even Elijah, the mighty prophet of God, felt all alone. "I, even I only, am left!" he exclaimed (1 Kings 19:10). That was his honest feeling; however, it wasn't true. The Lord revealed to Elijah that He had not abandoned His prophet, even reassuring Elijah of this by providing Elisha as his helper in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. God's presence and provision in Elijah's life reassured him of his divine purpose, and the same is true for you! Even when you may think or feel that you are alone, you are not! God's presence and provision, which you will receive yet again today, reassure you of this! Jesus is with you! He loves you! And He sends His Spirit into your life to give you His purpose and direction, reminding you that you belong to Him!

## PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN "SING PRAISE TO GOD, THE HIGHEST GOOD"

#819



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -  
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is  
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy  
4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -  
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood  
keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness  
a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,  
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our  
His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom  
And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and  
Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's  
A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:  
of His might All things are just and good and right:  
praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:  
ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:  
from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



- P** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
**C** **righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,  
**C** **and grant us Your salvation.**

## KYRIE

LSB 204

- C** **Lord, have mercy;**  
**Christ, have mercy;**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 204



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
 Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness that we may love and serve our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*1 Kings 19:9b–21*

Behold, the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”<sup>10</sup> He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”<sup>11</sup> And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.<sup>12</sup> And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.<sup>13</sup> And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”<sup>14</sup> He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”<sup>15</sup> And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.<sup>16</sup> And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.<sup>17</sup> And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.<sup>18</sup> Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

<sup>19</sup> So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him.<sup>20</sup> And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?”<sup>21</sup> And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

*Galatians 5:1, 13–25*

<sup>1</sup>For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . .

<sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup>But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE

*Luke 9:51*

**P** Alleluia. When the days drew near for Him to be taken up,

**C** He set His face to go to Jerusalem. Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 9:51–62*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>51</sup>When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. <sup>53</sup>But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup>And they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” <sup>58</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” <sup>59</sup>To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” <sup>61</sup>Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” <sup>62</sup>Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY “COME, FOLLOW ME,” THE SAVIOR SPAKE” #688**



1 “Come, fol - low Me,” the Sav - ior spake, “All in My  
2 “I am the light, I light the way, A god - ly  
3 “My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with  
4 “I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your  
5 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, And take the



way a - bid - ing; De - ny your - selves, the world for - sake,  
life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day;  
love is glow - ing; And gra - cious words My lips ex - press,  
soul's sal - va - tion, Your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,  
cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing to His Word,



O - bey My call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -  
I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and  
With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, My mind, My  
From sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge  
In suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, Take My ex - am - ple for your guide.  
well I show How you must so - journ here be - low.  
strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.  
of the soul And lead you to your heav'n - ly goal.”  
bat - tle's strain The crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96; (sts. 1–3, 5): Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; (st. 4): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695  
Tune: Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON – “Walking By the Spirit” based on Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

*Nicene Creed*

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have created us in Your image and called us into fellowship with Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to know that You are always with us—guiding our steps, providing for our lives, hearing our prayers, and answering us in ways that are for our good and that bring glory to Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer and receive our thanks for Your presence in our lives.**

**P** You reign over all the universe as King of kings and Lord of lords! In You, Lord Jesus, all things are held together. In You, Lord Jesus, we live and move and have our being. You provide well for all those who belong to You. Grant us hearts to receive Your Word, hands to extend Your love to others, and feet to walk by Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer and receive our thanks for Your provision in our lives.**

**P** Holy Spirit, when we feel lost and alone, remind us of Your never-failing love. Instill in us the readiness to be led by You in the purpose that You give to all who follow Jesus Christ. Send Your Church out into every corner of the world to proclaim the Good News of life and salvation in our Savior's death and resurrection. Until the day He comes again, grant that we never grow tired of sharing the Gospel with our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer and receive our thanks for Your purpose in our lives.**

**P** Merciful Lord, we pray Your blessing upon all who lead and govern us, for all who protect us from harm and danger, and for all who work for the well-being of our communities, our state, and our nation. Grant that Your presence and provision be known in our families and in the lives of our children. Remind those who are homebound, hospitalized, or ailing in any way that they are never alone, for You are always with them. *Grant Your healing mercies to those we name before You, especially Hedy, Jean, Kathleen, Ray, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Kris, Jen, John, Jonathan, Leah, and Rod.* Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, our times are in your hands. Look with favor on Karen, Alex, Tegan, and Gary as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Grant that they may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen their trust in Your goodness and bless them with your abiding love all the days of their lives. Lord in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank you for another year of married life together for Bev and Bob Chudy. Open their hearts to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared. Lord in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your faithful hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all those for whom we pray, ever trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C** **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 trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### CLOSING SENTENCES

*Galatians 5:1, 25*

**P** For freedom Christ has set us free;

**C** **stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

**P** If we live by the Spirit,

**C** **let us also walk by the Spirit.**

### BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN “SPREAD THE REIGN OF GOD THE LORD”

#830



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might-y Word;  
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,  
3 Tell of our Re-deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race  
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.  
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.  
And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.  
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;  
Ripe the promise of its yield.  
But the reapers, oh, how few  
For the work there is to do!

6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,  
Rouse to action heart and mind;  
Let the gath'ring nations all  
See Your light and heed Your call.

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. composite

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

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