

A Prayerful Reflection

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. As we prepare to pray, let's remember to praise God for all his goodness in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

CMP 528

*O worship the King,
all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing
His power and His love,
our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour,
and girded with praise.*

A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters, the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic. ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning. ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!" ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever. ¹¹ The LORD gives strength to his people, the LORD blesses his people with peace.

David penned the psalm, calling all people and heavenly hosts to worship the Lord in holiness and give Him the honour and glory He is due.

Verse 1-2 in these first two verses we hear the word '**Ascribe**',... three times, it's perhaps not a word we hear in everyday language, but the word reminds us to,... '**give**' to the Lord,... the worship due to the one who possesses all glory, all power and all strength.

Verses 3-9 centre's around the power of the Lord,... '**the voice of the Lord**'. The psalmist tells of God's might and power in how His voice impacts creation, its greater and mightier than any storm, anything on this earth, because God's power extends beyond the physical world. It comes against the strongest of all trees, even the tallest mountains. You know perhaps its true for many of us, that when we encounter storms in life, we may forget the power and glory of God. We may lose heart and question our faith, or we may turn to other people for help, advice and consolation. We may forget that God is our strength and all the help we will ever need. In this Psalm David remembers and praises the Lord his God for his power and glory, and we too can proclaim that truth.

Verse 11 – '**The Lord gives strength to his people, the Lord blesses his people with peace**'. There may be storms raging in our lives, with this pandemic, but take heart,...there is "PEACE" in the storm. There is an Anchor called "Jesus" who is able to and WILL bring "PEACE" in the midst of our storms. Jesus reminds us in **Matthew 28:20** '**I am with you always, to the very end of the age**'

Prayer – Heavenly Father, there are so many examples of your glory and majesty,.. we see the sun, moon, stars, mother nature and the wonder of creation all around us. Help us Lord to attune our ears to hear your voice, that whatever is thrown at us, we are able to stand strong in Jesus. **AMEN**

Prayer of Intercession

Let us pray and give thanks

Almighty God, we come in awe of you, the Lord of heaven and earth, to offer all of ourselves in worship and praise of you. For your goodness, mercy and grace. We thank you for the most precious gift of your Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

- Lord God, we hold before you today those places where people suffer because of the actions of others ... through war,.. oppression,.. injustice,.. hatred, ..prejudice and neglect. May they know that they are not forgotten. Help us to recognize and enable those who have the voice and the strength to bring change to these places.

Lord hear us – **graciously hear us.**

- We pray for those who are struggling with life because of ill health, whether that be physical,.. mental or spiritual. We name those who are known to us,.....and we pray for your strength to uphold them, your peace within them, your love surrounding them and your healing touch on their lives

Lord hear us – **graciously hear us.**

- We continue in our prayers that this pandemic will be gone in the name of Jesus. Lord we pray for the many who are still struggling throughout this new strain of 'Omricon', and for the hospital staff, care home staff and all who face these daily problems, especially those who are off sick.

Lord hear us – **graciously hear us.**

- We pray for our churches, for all who minister in word and deed, for all who serve in bringing the good news of Jesus Christ. We give thanks for the church serving the many in need, helping the homeless, the refugees, those who struggle with addictions. We pray for the work of the Street Pastors serving those in the night life economy in keeping them safe.

Lord hear us – **graciously hear us.**

Finally....take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time.

Pray the LORD'S Prayer

Peace

*The light of Christ lead you into the way of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

A prayer of blessing

*The light of the Creator shine on upon you.
The light of the Saviour scatter the darkness from before you.
The light of the Spirit guide you into the fullness of God's glory.*

AMEN