

Grace, mercy and peace are yours in abundance through faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly. ² Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. ³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate. ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations. ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. ⁸ They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever— holy and awesome is his name. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. **This is God's Word.**

Dear fellow members of God's Family,

I had a college professor that warned the class, "You are going to run into people that have the attitude, 'Jesus loves me this I know and that's all I want to know.'" It is certainly important that we know about Jesus and how much he loves us and that is all you need to know if you are on your deathbed but what about the rest of the time; what about the rest of us – especially those of us who have known Jesus our whole life? Is that enough?

Our Psalmist indicates that there is more to we need to know. He encourages us to, "**Lift our Hallelujahs to the Lord.**" but in order to do that with a thankful heart we need to know "**The glorious works of our Lord**" and to trust that "**His Word and his promises are dependable.**"

I. Our psalmist tells us, "**Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. ³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.**" The Old Testament people did a pretty good job of teaching their children about the great works of the Lord. It was the duty of the father to pass along God's Word to his children and that is still the duty of fathers today. Sunday School teachers also help in this endeavor but if I were to ask you to list some of the great works of the Lord, how many could you list?

Certainly creation comes to mind – that's when everything began. God made everything from nothing and he did it all by the power of his Word. And when he was done with creation, he looked at everything he had made and saw that it was perfect in every way.

In thinking about the great works of the Lord, we might look to the great flood. God brought judgment on a wicked world but saved Noah and his family in the ark because they believed and trusted in God for their salvation. In preserving Noah and family, God also preserved his promise made to Adam and Eve to send a Savior.

How about when God gave Moses the power to part the Red Sea so his people could cross on dry land and then brought the waters crashing down on the Egyptian army to destroy their enemy. How about how God preserved his people as they wandered in the desert for 40 years by

providing manna and quail for them to eat every day. We could certainly classify those as great works of the Lord.

Or how about how God showed his power on Mount Carmel when Elijah had a showdown with the prophets of Baal. God consumed the altar Elijah had built along with the sacrifice on the altar in a rather majestic way.

There are many events recorded for us in the Old Testament of how God took care of his people – even when they had doubts and weren't always faithful God was still there for them and provided for them – sometimes in miraculous ways.

To help the Old Testament people remember some of the great works of the Lord, God established festivals – religious holidays his people were to observe. One of the greatest was the Passover. Many of God's people traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate how God freed his people from the slavery of Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. The people celebrated with a special meal and special ceremonies. The Passover pointed God's people ahead to when he would send a greater Moses to rescue them from the slavery of their sins.

So how do we remember these things? Some of the scripture lessons read every Sunday point to them. Our Children's Christmas Service mentions many of these great events as we focus in on Luke 2 and our Savior. We sum up the Lord's work among us as we say the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. We study God's Word in Bible Class, Sunday School and through our home devotions. And we have a special meal where we remember our Lord's sacrifice for our sins and receive the assurance of forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith.

As we gather around God's Word, the psalmist reminds us, **“⁴ He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate. ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works.”**

God is great and glorious – compassionate and gracious – and he has shown his power as he has worked the gift of faith into our hearts. God feeds that faith and strengthens it as we eagerly gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ around his Word and it pleases God as we sing Hallelujahs and praise him. God has done great and glorious things recorded for us in scripture and some of us, as we look back over life, can see how God has guided us and maybe even intervened for our benefit. We have many reasons to sing Hallelujah to our Lord and as his children we listen to him speak to us through his Word for his Word is dependable as it brings us the knowledge of salvation and guides us in our lives.

II. “⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. ⁸ They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness. ⁹ He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever— holy and awesome is his name.” God faithfully sent his Son Jesus to provide redemption for us, his people. Jesus paid for our sins and established a new covenant – a covenant of grace that says, **“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”** (Mark 16:16). It is simple – faith in Jesus brings life and salvation. Rejection of Christ brings condemnation.

That's it. He has done it all. There is nothing else for us to do when it comes to our salvation. Paul reminds us, **“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace”** (Ephesians 1:7)

And so out of love we want to hear about our Savior, listen to him and live according to his Word. After all, Jesus said, **“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”** (John 14:15).

‘Jesus loves me this I know and that's all I want to know.’ That saying is not for me. Yes, Jesus loves me and I know this, but I want to know so much more. I want to know about how he takes care of his people – people like me. I want to hear about his love and grace and patience and his glorious works because they encourage me and through the work of the Holy Spirit, they fill me with hope and love and grace. I want to listen to Jesus as he speaks to me because I need to hear that my sins are forgiven and I need him to guide me in my life and at times to comfort me and give me strength.

So today, as consider the words of Psalm 111, may we eagerly gather to hear our Savior speak to us. May we grow in the knowledge and understanding of his Word and may we never get tired of sing Hallelujahs – Praise the Lord as we worship and give thanks. Amen.