

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow – today and always. Amen.

(reading selected verses from Psalm 145)

⁴ One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.

⁵ They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶ They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. ⁷ They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

Dear Friends,

Have you ever thought about what worship is all about? Many times we think, “What’s in it for me?” but worship isn’t about me. It is about God and what he does for me. Our service is really designed to be a conversation with God – he speaks to us and comes to us in his sacraments and we respond with prayers or praise or thankfulness.

Today, as we consider the words of David in Psalm 145, we want to, **“Praise God for all His Blessings.”** Psalm 145 will help us to see, **“By His Power and Wisdom He Made Us,” “Through His Mercy and Love He Saved Us,”** and **“In keeping with His Promises he Preserves Us.”**

I. What is worship all about? David, who wrote this psalm, described his worship life this way, **“I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. ² Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. ³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.”** David was a great king and yet he recognized God as his king. And he didn’t just worship here and there, sing a few songs, and go through the motions. He put his heart and soul into his worship.

He recognized God’s greatness and glorified his name – lifted it up and sang praises. He had a true love for God and wanted to be in his house often. Every day he praised God – maybe not in the temple but every day he took some time with God. That is why he used the phrase **“I will,”** so much in these verses.

He didn’t send the priest and say, “Go worship for me today. Sacrifice a lamb or a bull in my name.” His worship was personal because praise is not by proxy. You can’t worship God by sending your wife or kids to do it for you. It is something you will want to do yourself, just as David did because the Lord is worthy of our praise – Great praise for a Great God!

But it’s not only about us and our formal worship life in church. **“One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. ⁵ They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶ They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. ⁷ They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.”** We praise God when we tell the next generation about him.

There are so many ways to pass God’s Word to the next generation. Read Bible stories to your children so they know who the people of the Bible are and how God has taken care of them

just as he takes care of us. Bring your children to Sunday School. Encourage them and help them to memorize Bible passages and hymns. Set the example for them – let them see how happy you are to worship and serve the Lord and never describe worship as a burden or chore. Help them to see that worship is all about God – What does God have to say to us? How can I serve God? How can I praise God today?

Why? Because God is awesome. He deserves our praise. We don't always worship him in the way he deserves, but he forgives our shortcomings and invites us to come and worship him again and again. The neat thing is that as we come to praise God, we are the ones who benefit. He brings us his righteousness through His Word and builds up our faith as we worship. God does that because of His mercy and Love for us.

II. David describes God's mercy and love this way, **“The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. ⁹ The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.”** The Lord is every thing we are not. Sometimes we see people who make poor choices and bring all kind of problems into their lives. We shake our head and certainly are not inclined to help them, but the Lord is compassionate and gracious. Even though we sin and also make trouble for ourselves he does not abandon us. Even when we disobey him he is slow to anger and rich in love.

That doesn't mean he just ignores how we have disobeyed him and the poor choices we make in our lives. The richness of his love is seen in the fact he sent his Son to pay for our disobedient ways. When we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, our God assures us we are forgiven and gives us his Word to direct us away from the temptations that cause us problems in the first place. John tells us, **“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”** (1 John 2:1). We have no greater reason to praise God than to thank him for his mercy and love which brings us salvation.

That is why the cross is such an important symbol of Christianity. It reminds us of how our Savior spilled his precious blood to pay for our sins. When we are telling of our God's mighty deeds, we can point to the cross and explain that his mightiest deed was to take our place and suffer for us so that we can be forgiven and have the sure hope of eternal life. That is what we believe and our faith brings us the gift of salvation our God wants us to have. Praise the Lord!

III. Finally, we praise God for keeping his promise to preserve us. A favorite verse I like to use before a meal comes from this Psalm, **“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. ¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.”** God controls this world in which we live so that there is seed time and harvest, day and night, summer and winter. David is not kidding when he says, **“The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.”** He makes sure we have everything we need.

There was a business man who was having trouble during a downturn in the economy. He told his wife, “We have to give more to the Lord.” His wife thought he was crazy. They could barely make ends meet and he wanted to give more to the Lord. But the man explained to his

wife, "Everything we have comes from God. We are only returning some of his blessings to show our gratitude and our trust. Times are tough. Let's show God how much we trust him."

It was trust and love that motivated this man's giving and God took care of him. Giving to the Lord is part of our worship and praise to God. Let us not be stingy with what God has given us and let us not be fearful when it comes to trusting God. For, **"The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. ²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever."**

Sometimes we think we know it all when it comes to worship and God's Word. But our Bible Class last week shows us that we still have a lot of questions and a lot to learn about God and his will for our lives. As we consider our worship life may we be renewed by the words of David and look forward to gathering around God's Word with our church family and may we take the time to pass the truths of God's word down to the next generation. For God has been good and gracious to us. He created us, he has brought us to faith and he preserves us in that faith through his Word. Amen.