

INTRODUCTION

For those who are new this morning, my name is Paden Rourk and I am the deacon of operations here at Anthem Church. I much prefer to work behind the scenes but I am humbled to serve you all this morning with the preaching of God's word.

Our teaching pastor is serving Origin Church in Rocklin filling in for our beloved Mark South who just had significant hip surgery. So please keep Mark in your prayers.

We are continuing our series in the book of Judges where we will find our encouragement from the life and death of Samson. His story can be found in Judges 13-16 and Samson just so happens to be the last judge we will be looking at in this series. Allen will finish off the book of Judges when he returns next week.

As I said Samson's story covers 4 chapters, more than any other judge in the book of Judges. We will be covering all 4 of those chapters this morning, although not in as much detail as we normally would. So I will be taking a more broad approach.

The more I read the story of Samson the more a specific subject showed itself. Samson has much to teach us about humility.

Luke 14:11 says this, **"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

The importance of humility permeates all of scripture.

Proverbs 22:4 - The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.

Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Proverbs 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

I could go on, but that seems like a fitting place to stop. In the book of Judges we continuously see that Israel is doing what is right in their own eyes. The same is true during the time of Samson.

Judges 13:1 – **"And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years."**

In the book of Judges there is a major **cycle** that consistently reappears:

1. Covenant breach where God accuses Israel of unfaithfulness or half-heartedness (Judges 13:1)
2. Covenant consequence where oppressors and enemies are allowed by the hand of God (Judges 13:1)
3. Covenant renewal where a judge is raised in response to sorrow and grief.

However, in the story of Samson, sorrow and grief is nowhere found on behalf of Israel. There is no crying out of the people as we have noticed with prior judges. As a matter of fact, Israel appears to be perfectly content being under the oppression of the Philistines. Even further, I think they prefer it.

If we look in Judges 15 we read that the Philistines encamped in Judah in retaliation for Samson burning their fields. Judah asks the Philistines why they are doing this and they tell Judah all about how Samson had been tormenting them. Judah's response is to send 3,000 of their men to where Samson is staying in order that they might bind him and hand him over to the Philistines.

Judah is arresting the God appointed savior of His chosen people and handing him over to their oppressor. This narrative should sound familiar. Jesus Christ, our perfect savior, was sent by God to save the Jew first, then the gentile, was handed over by the Jews to Romans who were oppressing them. This is just one of many places that we can find Christ in the story of Samson.

Samson's story teaches many things, but the primary focus this morning will be the hard lesson of humility. To help us learn how to be humble we will be looking at three things:

1. We should be humbled by God's grace
2. We should be humbled by God's governance (Sovereignty)
3. We should be humbled by God's glory

[PRAYER OVER MESSAGE]

Father in Heaven,

How majestic is your name. We praise you this morning for the gathering of your beloved people. May your Spirit do a mighty work in us this morning. Convict us of what we need to be convicted of. Humble us by the weight of your grace and mercy.

I am humbled that you have chosen to use me, in spite of me, for your glory. May every word that is not of you fall by the wayside and may every Word that is from you penetrate the depths of our hearts this morning.

In the power of the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

WE SHOULD BE HUMBLLED BY GOD'S GRACE

There are at least three attributes of God's grace that can be clearly seen in the story of Samson.

1. God's Grace is Undeserved

Israel is once again doing what is evil in the sight of the Lord. Israel has been handed over by God to be oppressed by the Philistines for 40 years. Israel is not crying out to the Lord to be saved, but rather they sit in silence, entirely content in their state of oppression.

However, despite Israel's sin; despite Israel not crying out; God still saw them as a people worth saving. So much so that God called Samson, before he was even born, to begin the process of delivering God's chosen people from the hand of the Philistines. Samson is unique from all the other judges mentioned. He is the only judge who is given the call from birth.

God uses Samson's mother, a barren, nameless woman, as an instrument of God's grace. She had no previous children and was 100% infertile. Her friends and family probably saw her as a hopeless cause, but God showed his grace on her and granted her a son who would be used by God to begin the process of delivering his oppressed people.

Despite all of Samson's sin, which includes: marrying a Philistine woman which was against the covenant God made with his people, he broken every single Nazarite vow that Lord called him to take from birth, he slept with a prostitute, he is prideful, he is arrogant, and I didn't even touch on his relationship with Delilah. Despite all of this, God still uses Samson in incredible ways.

Three times in these 4 chapters the phrase is used, "the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon Samson." Each time this occurred Samson was empowered by God's Spirit to accomplish something spectacular. The first time Samson killed a lion with his bare hands. The second time he killed 30 Philistine men, and the third time he killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey. Not to mentioned the time Samson went down to Gaza, which was one of the 5 major cities of the Philistines, and removed a city gate that probably weighed several thousand pounds and carried it approximately 20+ miles toward Hebron in the land of Judah.

Samson's story contains the nation of Israel that is not crying out to the Lord. It contains and unnamed and barren wife. It contains Samson who seeks his own desires over God's desire for him. None of these people deserved God's grace, yet he granted it to them anyway. For that is what grace is. It is a free gift that none of them deserved.

We are also the recipients of this free gift. None of us are worthy of receiving God's grace. We have all fallen short and are guilty before a holy and blameless God. The only thing that we deserve his death, for the wages of sin is death. The gift of salvation that we have received as God's children has nothing to do with anything that we have done.

1 Timothy 1:12-16 - I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Paul was judged faithful, not because of who he was, or anything that he had done, but because of who Jesus is and what Jesus had done. For this reason Paul says that he received mercy, that Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life.

The same is true for us church. We have received this undeserved grace so that the perfect patience of Christ, exemplified through us, might bring others into a relationship with Christ himself! This undeserved grace should humble us.

The second attribute of God's grace is that God's grace is unrelenting.

2. God's Grace is Unrelenting

God's grace for his chosen people is so great that it never gives up. It is unrelenting. So much so, that Samson is continually shown God's grace all the way through his death.

Throughout all of the Old Testament, Israel is consistently forgetting who God is, and what He has done for them. Despite this, he never leaves them. He does not give up on them. He does whatever his necessary to get the hearts of his chosen people.

The same is true of Samson. He continuously forgets who God is and what he has done. Yet God never completely leaves him. When Samson reveals his secret to Delilah and she cuts off his hair the Lord does leave him, but when we get to the end of Samson's story we see that when Samson cries out to the Lord for one last act of divine strength that God is right there waiting to give him the strength.

God handing Samson over to the Philistines was an act of God's discipline. Which is important to see as a means of God's grace. If we see God's discipline solely as an act of God's anger then we are missing something. We serve a loving God who is often compared to a loving Father. A loving father does not ignore the wrong doing of his children. He shows grace, but a point in time will come when discipline is the only correct choice of action.

Proverbs 3:11-12 - My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

If God wanted Samson to really suffer, he would not have handed him over to the Philistines. If he really wanted Samson to suffer he would have allowed him to continue down the path of self-destruction he was going down.

Understanding this leads us to the third attribute of God's grace that we will briefly examine.

3. God's Grace is Uncomfortable

Two reasons God's grace is uncomfortable

1. God's grace is uncomfortable because it is undeserved
2. God's grace is uncomfortable because it is unrelenting

A reason that God's grace is so uncomfortable is because there is nothing any of us can do to earn it. No matter how hard we try, there is nothing we can do to earn God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says this, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

This is why God's grace is so uncomfortable.

As someone who has a high value of justice I struggle reading through the story of Samson. Time and time again he shows no thought or care in the world towards God and his commandments. Yet God blesses him richly. How can Samson, be included in the hall of faith listed in Hebrews 11? It does not make any sense. It appears unfair and unjust.

However, if my justice mentality believes that God's grace should only be poured out on those who deserve it, then we all, myself included, have a very hard reality to face. For Paul says in Romans that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. He continues later in Romans saying that he wages of sin is death. Apart from Christ, we are all condemned to eternal damnation.

The simple fact that we are all breathing this morning is a result of God's wonderful outpouring of God's grace. Let alone the house you slept in, the food you ate this morning, the vehicle that got you here, or the money in your bank account. All of these things are a part of God's grace.

We should not be boasting in who we think we are, what we think we have, or anything that we have done. All of our praise should be on God who provided all of those things to us to be used and stewarded to bring him the highest amount of glory possible.

God's grace is uncomfortable because it is undeserved. His grace is also uncomfortable because it is unrelenting.

Israel had completely turned their back on God. They had devoted themselves to the worship of false idols and were content in their state of oppression. They were no longer crying out to God. They were content living in sin.

However, we serve a God who does not give up on his chosen people. He is willing to do whatever it takes to fulfill the promises he has so generously given us. If Israel is unwilling to genuinely repent and humble themselves then God will bring about their humiliation in order to save them.

God's unrelenting grace does not give up. God's love for his chosen people knows no bounds. He will do whatever it takes for us to realize this great love that he has for us. So much so that he is willing to turn Samson over to the Philistines, to have his eyes gouged out to do the work of a slave in prison, and to be humiliated in front of thousands; talk about uncomfortable.

God's unrelenting grace is uncomfortable. I know many of you have experienced, or are currently experience great hardships in your life of which I cannot begin to understand. Be encouraged that although you are in the middle of this struggle that God's grace has not left you.

I hope these words from **Paul Tripp** bring you encouragement this morning.

Paul Tripp - "God has not forgotten you. He has not turned his back on you. He is not punishing you in anger. He surely is not withholding the grace that he has promised from you. No, you are receiving grace, but it is grace that is willing to break bones in order to capture and transform your heart. This grace is unrelenting. This grace has no intention of giving up. This grace will not be satisfied with the status quo. This grace does not get discouraged. It will never compromise. It will never become bitter or cynical. This is loving, patient, perseverant, powerful grace."

WE SHOULD BE HUMBLER BY GOD'S GOVERNANCE (God's Sovereignty)

The second way we can learn out to practice humility is to focus on God's Governance. When I say God's governance I am referring to his sovereignty. There are three aspects of God's sovereignty I want to draw special attention to this morning.

1. The first is God sovereign over creation

God is perfectly sovereign over all of creation because he created it. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He created everything that we see, and don't see, out of nothing.

Revelation 4:11 – "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

All of creation is created and sustained by God. God does not create his creation and then abandon it. He also sustains it.

Look at Samson; God created Samson out of nothing. He brought forth an imperfect savior for Israel out of nothing. Israel had no desire for a savior and no man existed who could save them, so God created one. God also sustained Samson. He proved Samson with everything he needed, which was God, to accomplish God's will.

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Christ is sitting on his throne, alive and in glory, actively upholding the universe, and that universe includes you church. You are God's beloved creation. You are God's chosen people. Christ has set you apart to accomplish wonderful and might things through you, despite you, for His glory.

2. The second aspect of God's sovereignty is he is sovereign over the process of redemption

Samson was created by God to begin the process of redeeming Israel from the hand of the Philistines. There is nothing Israel can do that will redeem them from the wrath of God, nor are they even trying. Israel wanted nothing to do with God's redemptive plan. The people of Judah handed Samson over to the Philistines as a prisoner. God responded by empowering Samson to kill 1,000 Philistines. God's redemptive plan will not be compromised.

Proverbs 19:21 – Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Nothing will stand in the way of God redeeming his chosen people. Whether that be Israel of old, or his present Church.

The word redeem has two primary definitions. The first is “to compensate for faults.” God absolutely does this. When Samson marries the Philistine woman he uses Samson’s sinful desire as an opportunity to accomplish his purpose against the Philistines.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul is boasting in his weakness. He is boasting in his faults. For it is Christ alone that redeems him. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh which Paul requests that God take away. God ensures Paul that his grace is sufficient for him. God is strong enough to redeem any shortcomings Paul may have. For this is all happening to Paul in order to keep him from being conceited. This is happening to Paul to keep him humble.

Sometimes the Lord allows things to happen in our lives, sometimes very hard things, in order to keep us from sin, in order to keep us in a constant state of humility, in a constant state of being reliant of who God is, no matter how weak we may be.

The second primary definition of redeem is “to gain, or regain possession of something in exchange for payment.

God lost something in the Garden of Eden. He lost his relationship with his most prized creation, man and woman. All of Scripture is this beautiful story of redemption. Everything is leading up to the day when we are once again fully redeemed and restored to our proper relationship with our creator.

God is using Samson as a part of his redemptive process for Israel. God has lost his relationship with Israel because of the evil that Israel had done, and God is determined to do whatever is necessary to redeem that relationship.

When Samson is betrayed by Delilah and handed over into the hands of the Philistines God is still with him. He has not forsaken his promise to use Samson as a means of this redemption story. However, the payment for this is going to cost Samson his life. Samson cries out to God in the temple of the Philistines asking God for one last action of divine strength. Samson is aware of the final result of his request.

Judges 16:28-30 - Then Samson called to the LORD and said, “O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.” And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” Then he bowed with all his strength, and the

house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.

This sacrificial act of Samson is a deficient sacrifice. Samson offering his own life to redeem Israel is imperfect. His sacrifice is much like the sacrificial system of Israel. These payments are imperfect. They do not accomplish the ultimate task of restoring the relationship between God and his people as it was in the beginning.

Hebrews 8:7 - For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

Redeem – “to gain, or regain possession of something in exchange for payment”

Israel was not in possession of this relationship. If we go back to the covenant God made to Abraham we would see that God made this covenant with himself. He alone is responsible for restoring His relationship with his chosen people.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him

Jesus Christ is our redeemer. Jesus Christ is our perfect sacrifice that paid the debt that we could not pay. What is it that Christ says while on the cross? He says in John 19:30, “it is finished.” The debt has been paid.

God is perfectly sovereign of the process of redemption. Remain humble, for your salvation has nothing to do with you.

3. The third aspect of God’s sovereignty is his sovereignty as judge

Romans 9:15 - For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

Church, I cannot over emphasize the importance of taking the time to consistently remind ourselves that God is judge over all the earth.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 - For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

We must not neglect this, lest we fall into the trap of Samson. Samson had experience the grace, mercy, and patience of the Lord time and time again. Samson was an expert in experiencing God’s compassion and loving nature.

Psalms 103:8 - The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalms 145:8 - The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

We like to put most of our focus on text like these because they make us feel better about ourselves. This is not a bad thing. It is extremely comforting to know that we service a God who is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Please do not stop focusing on that, but do not ignore that God is on his throne in heaven waiting to judge every deed, every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Romans 6:1-2 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Where are the sinful areas of your heart that you have become complacent with? Where is the sin in your life that you overlook, or count as insignificant? Let us examine our hearts this morning church.

The third way we can learn to practice humility is to focus on God's glory.

WE SHOULD BE HUMBLLED BY GOD'S GLORY

Two aspects of God's glory

1. God's glory is deserved

Judges 13:17-18 - And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?" And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

We need to be humbled by God's glory. The word translated wonderful carries with it the connotation of being incomprehensible, or beyond understanding. It is the same word used in Psalm 139:6

Psalm 139:1-6 - O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

God affirms this with the prophet Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God's glory is deserved because he alone is God. His grace and his sovereignty are only 2 of an infinite number of reasons that God glory is deserved. If you need a better understanding of how we as creation relate to our creator simply read Job chapters 38-42. Reading that should humble you immediately.

We need to be humbled by God's glory because God takes his glory extremely seriously.

Isaiah 48:9-11 - For my name's sake I defer my anger; for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

Samson was not properly acknowledging the glory God deserved, so God humbled him. Let this be a warning to us church. Let us learn from Samson's mistake. We must remember that God's glory is due in all things. In times of wealth; in times of poverty; in times of pain; in times of joy;

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

2. God's glory is demonstrated

We know that God takes his glory seriously and he will share it with no one. So when we read the end of Judges 16 and we see how the Philistines rejoice in the capture of Samson we know something exciting is about to happen.

Judges 16:23-25 - Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand." And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us." And when their hearts were merry, they said, "Call Samson, that he may entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars.

Samson, chosen by God to begin the deliverance of Israel from the hand of the Philistines, has just been captured, has had his eyes gouged out, he is doing the work of a slave, and is now being humiliated by the Philistines. The Philistines are rejoicing and praising their god, Dagon, for delivering Samson in their hand.

God's glory will not be shared with anyone. He is the one who handed Samson over to the Philistines, not Dagon. So for God's own glory, he uses a weak and broken Samson as an instrument to display God's majestic glory.

This is not the only times in Scripture God makes a fool of the Philistine god Dagon. If we were to continue reading into 1 Samuel chapters 4 and 5 we would see that the Philistines of defeated Israel in a battle and captured the Ark of the Covenant. The Philistines take the Ark of the Covenant into the house of Dagon and place the Ark beside the idol Dagon.

What follows is the Lord's reaction to the Philistines. **1 Samuel 5:3-12**

And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

The hand of the LORD was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he terrified and afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory. And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god." So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" They answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath." So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there. But after they had brought it around, the hand of the LORD was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that

tumors broke out on them. So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But as soon as the ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people." They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not kill us and our people." For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there. The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

Isaiah 48:11 - "For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another."

CONCLUSION [Invite Band Back On Stage]

The life of Samson is a tough lesson in the importance of humility. God's grace, governance, and glory should keep us in a constant state of humility. Let us learn from Samson's mistakes and not see God as an afterthought. God wants every part of our hearts. So much so that He is willing to do whatever it takes to get it. This is why He sent himself, in the form of Jesus Christ, to die the death the only he could die and conquered the power of death and sin with his resurrection. Jesus is alive! Let us not forget that!

As the service continues I would like us to do two things:

1. As you prepare our hearts for communion follow the instruction of David as he writes in Psalm 139:23-24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Take the time this morning to humble yourself before the throne of God and ask him to show you any part of your heart, any area of your life, that you have not surrendered over to him. Follow that by asking him to lead you in the path of righteousness, in the way everlasting.

2. After you have done that, I want you to lift up your praises to our wonderful, gracious, sovereign, glorious, incomprehensible God.

If you need more motivation, allow me to read Psalm 96.

Psalm 96 (Worship in the Splendor of His Holiness.)

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

Let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY. AMEN.