

Prayer

Components of Prayer: Adoration

Questions

- What is Prayer?
- What is the place of Corporate Prayer?

PART 2

The Definition of Prayer

*Adapted from Dr. Jim Rosscup's TMS syllabus, "Biblical Exposition of Prayer"

“Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God.”

~Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“Real prayer is communion with God, so that there will be common thoughts between His mind and ours. What is needed is for Him to fill our hearts with His thoughts, and then His desires will become our desires flowing back to Him.”

~Arthur Pink

“Prayer is the key of heaven; the Spirit helps faith turn the key.”

~Thomas Watson

“No spiritual exercise is such a blending of complexity and simplicity. It is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try, yet the sublimest strains that reach the Majesty on high. It is as appropriate to the aged philosopher as to the little child. It is the ejaculation of a moment and the attitude of a lifetime. It is the expression of the rest of faith and of the fight of faith. It is an agony and an ecstasy. It is submissive and yet importunate. In the one moment it lays hold of God and binds the devil. It can be focused on a single objective and it can roam the world. It can be abject confession and rapt adoration. It invests puny man with a sort of omnipotence.”

~J. Oswald Sanders

“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.”

~Martin Luther

Prayer is “a communion of men with God by which, having entered the heavenly sanctuary, they appeal to him in person concerning his promises in order to experience ... that what they believed was not in vain.” Prayer is “a communication between God and us whereby we expound to him our desires, our joys, our sighs, in a word, all the thoughts of our hearts.”

~John Calvin

“The essence of prayer is simply talking to God as you would to a beloved friend—without pretense or flippancy.”

~John MacArthur

*Prayer is the rightful, personal response
of the creature to his Creator
in light of His revelation and redemption.*

*It is the ultimate act of worship, dependency, and love,
whereby the worshiper pours out his soul before God.*

What is prayer, specifically?

The “**ACTS**” approach:

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication

The three “**Rs**” approach

- Rejoice
- Repent
- Request

Prayer's components . . .

1. WORSHIPFUL ADORATION

Worship is rendering to God the honor, respect, glory, and love due His holy majesty in light of how worthy He is.

Psalm 33:1 – “Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; praise is becoming to the upright.”

Daniel 9:4 – “I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, ‘Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments . . .’”

Matt 6:9 – “Hallowed by Thy name”

Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION

1.1. As is often seen in the Psalms, we are to have a spirit permeated by a *sense of God, who He is* as the God who hears and answers prayer.

→ He is *righteous* (Pss 5; 145:7, 17)

→ He is *strong* and does *mighty works* (Pss 21:13; 46:1; 59:16-17; 65:6-13; 74:12-17; 145:1-21), as is especially seen in His work of *creation*.

→ He is the *sovereign king* (Pss 5; 10:16-18; 145:11, 13; 149)

→ He is *loving and gracious* (Pss 107:1; 111; 118:1-4, 29)

Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION

1.2. In the Psalms we see praise mingled with other components of prayer, as worship undergirds these other elements.

Psalm 119 especially shows the interconnectedness of praise with other elements of prayer:

- thanksgiving (“I shall give thanks to you” – v. 7)
- commitment (“I shall keep Your statutes” – v. 8)
- petition (“Deal bountifully with Your servant” – v. 17)
- confession (“I cling to Your testimonies!” – v. 31)
- separation (“I hate those who are double-minded” – v. 113)
- etc.

Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION

1.3. *Praise* and *thanksgiving* appear to be virtually synonymous in many Psalms.

- Conceptually, praise especially mingles with thanksgiving (Pss 75; 103-105)
- Lexically, the terms express the main thought of ***appreciation, acknowledgement, or recognition***—whether of God’s person, His works, or His gifts.
- Careful, neat distinctions between the terms cannot be maintained (e.g., “praise” is for God’s person; “thanksgiving” is for His words).

Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION

Rosscup: “Both English words ‘praise’ and ‘thanksgiving’ are words under one umbrella—acknowledgement/appreciation/respect for God’s excellent worthiness. Both give credit or glory or magnification for His **attributes** and for His **acts**.”

If any distinction is to be made:

- **PRAISE**: focuses more particularly on **God’s greatness** in His person and His performance.
- **THANKSGIVING**: focuses more on **our gratitude** for His person and His performance (i.e., it is our response to the direct and personal intersection of God’s greatness **in our lives**).

Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION

1.4. Praise is practiced through biblical and personal observation, consideration, and remembrance.

David MacIntyre (*The Hidden Life of Prayer*) summarizes the worship component of prayer in three categories:

- (1) it is acknowledgement of daily mercies;
- (2) it is praise for the gift of redemption; and
- (3) it is contemplation of the Divine perfections.

“Let us take trouble to observe and consider the Lord’s dealings with us, and we shall surely receive soul-enriching views of His kindness and truth.”

Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION

Praying through God's Perfections:

- Aseity
- Beauty
- Eternality
- Faithfulness
- Freedom
- Goodness
- Holiness
- Immutability
- Jealousy
- Justice
- Kindness
- Love
- Mercy
- Omnipotence
- Omnipresence
- Omniscience
- Patience
- Peace
- Simplicity
- Sovereignty
- Triunity
- Truthfulness
- Wisdom

THE ATTRIBUTES

of GOD

To study God's attributes is to study his character, to answer questions like, *Who is God?* and *What is God like?* A typical classification of God's attributes divides them into those that are **incommunicable** (those that he does not share or "communicate" to anyone or anything else) and **communicable** (those that he shares with other beings). Like most theological classifications, this one is imperfect but still helpful as we seek to understand what is so far beyond ourselves.

God's communicable attributes can be further categorized into: attributes of God's being, mental attributes, moral attributes, attributes of purpose and "summary" attributes (attributes that, in a more particular way, modify each of the others).

It is important to consider that God is not simply the sum of his attributes. His attributes are not separate from one another, but each one modifies or qualifies each of the others.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Systematic Theology | Wayne Grudem

The Attributes of God | A.W. Pink

ASEITY

God is self-existent and self-sufficient and has no need of human beings or the rest of creation.

BEAUTY

Summary attributes

God is the possessor and the sum of all desirable qualities.

BLESSEDNESS

Summary attributes

God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects his character.

ETERNITY

God has always existed, having no beginning and no end, and experiencing no succession of moments.

FREEDOM

Attributes of Purpose

God does whatever he pleases.

GLORY

Summary attributes

The created brightness that surrounds God's revelation of himself.

GOODNESS

Moral attributes

God is the final standard of all good, and all he is and does is worthy of approval.

HOLINESS

Moral attributes

God is separated from sin and he is committed to seeking his own honor.

IMMUTABILITY

God cannot change in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises.

INVISIBILITY

Attributes describing God's being

God's total essence, all of his being, will never be visible to us.

JEALOUSY

Moral attributes

God always seeks to protect his own honor.

KNOWLEDGE

Mental attributes

God fully knows himself and all actual and possible things. (This is also known as God's omniscience)

LOVE

Moral attributes

God eternally gives of himself to others.

MERCY

Moral attributes

God is good to those in misery and distress and he is good to those who deserve punishment.

OMNIPOTENCE

Attributes of Purpose

God is able to do all his holy will. (This is also known as God's sovereignty)

OMNIPRESENCE

God has no size or shape and is present in all places with his entire being.

PEACE

Moral attributes

God, in his being and actions, is separate from all confusion and disorder.

PERFECTION

Summary attributes

God fully possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no qualities that would be desirable for him.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Moral attributes

God is the final standard of what is right and he always acts in accordance with what is right. (This is also known as God's justice)

SPIRITUALITY

Attributes describing God's being

God is a being who is not made up of matter and who cannot be perceived by our bodily senses.

TRUTHFULNESS

Mental attributes

God is the true God whose knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.

UNITY

God's whole being includes all of his attributes at all times. These attributes are never in opposition.

WILL

Attributes of Purpose

God approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of all that exists.

WISDOM

Mental attributes

God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.

WRATH

Moral attributes

God intensely hates all sin.

Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION

Q: What does it mean to *bless* the Lord?

PSALM 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of his benefits. (vv. 1-2)

...

Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word,
Obeying the voice of His word!

Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, doing His will.

Bless the LORD, all you works of His, In all places of His dominion;

Bless the LORD, O my soul! (vv. 20-22)

A: To acknowledge and declare God the *origin* of everything good,
the *giver* of good gifts.

Psalm 103

"Recognizing the King as Blessed"

- The King as the source of Intimate Blessing (vv. 1-5)
- The King as the source of Corporate Blessing (vv. 6-18)
- The King as the source of Cosmic Blessing (vv. 19-22)

Intimate Blessing (vv. 1-5)

- Personal Praise (vv. 1-2)
- Purposeful Praise (vv. 3-5)
 - Benefits Expressed (vv. 3-5a)
 - Benefits' Results (v. 5b)

Corporate Blessing (vv. 6-18)

- The Blessing of YHWH's Revelation (vv. 6-8)
- The Blessing of YHWH's Character (vv. 9-12)
- The Blessing of YHWH's Provision (vv. 13-18)

Cosmic Blessing (vv. 19-22)

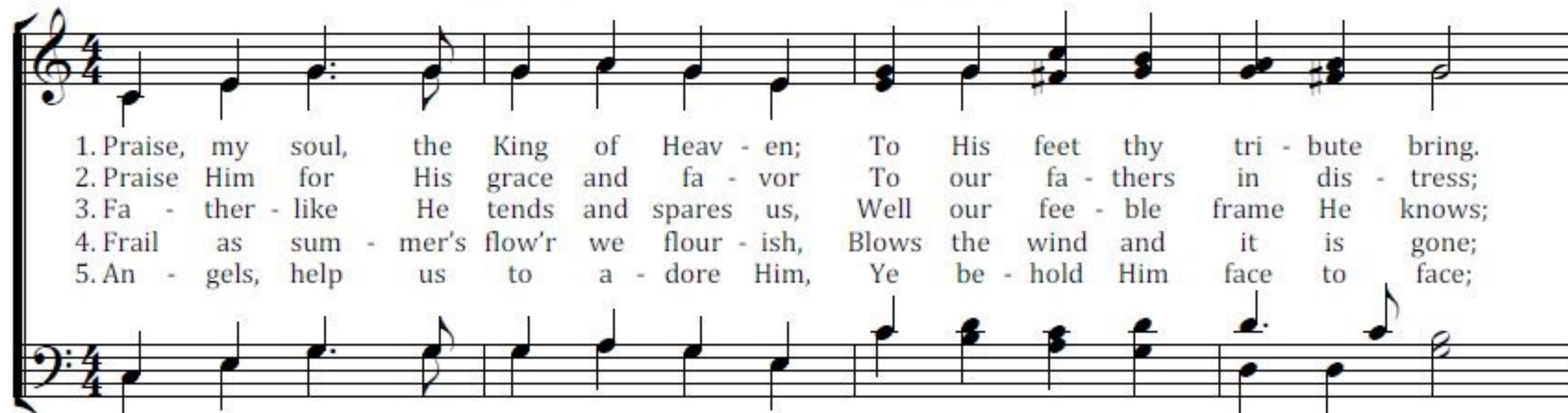
- A Worthy object of Adoration (v. 19)
- Worshiping subjects (vv. 20-22)
 - Heavenly Beings (vv. 20-21)
 - All Creation (v. 22)

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. Psa. 47:6

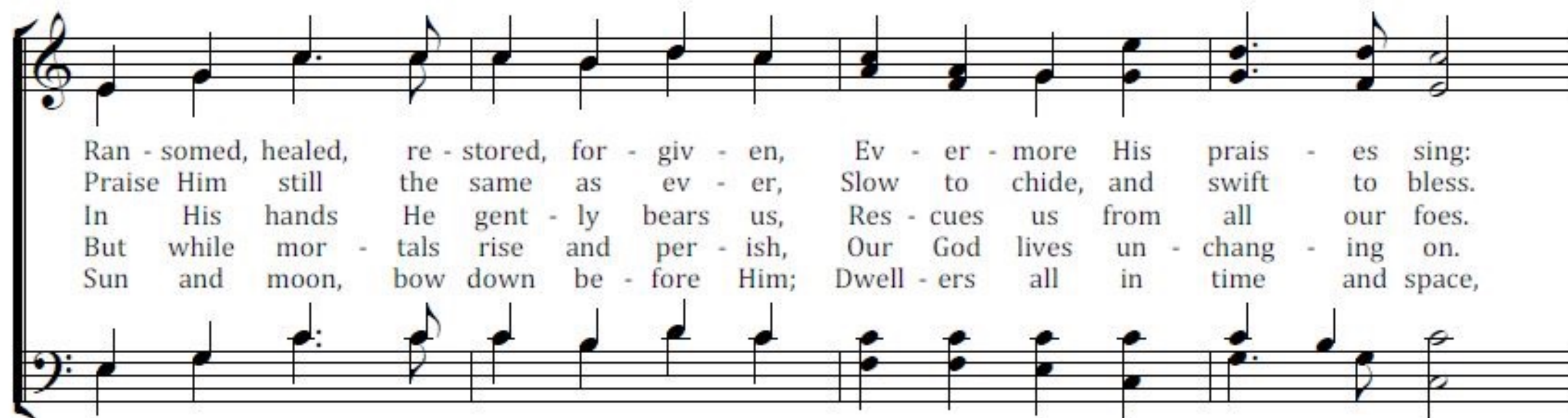
Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. 67:3

Psalm 103



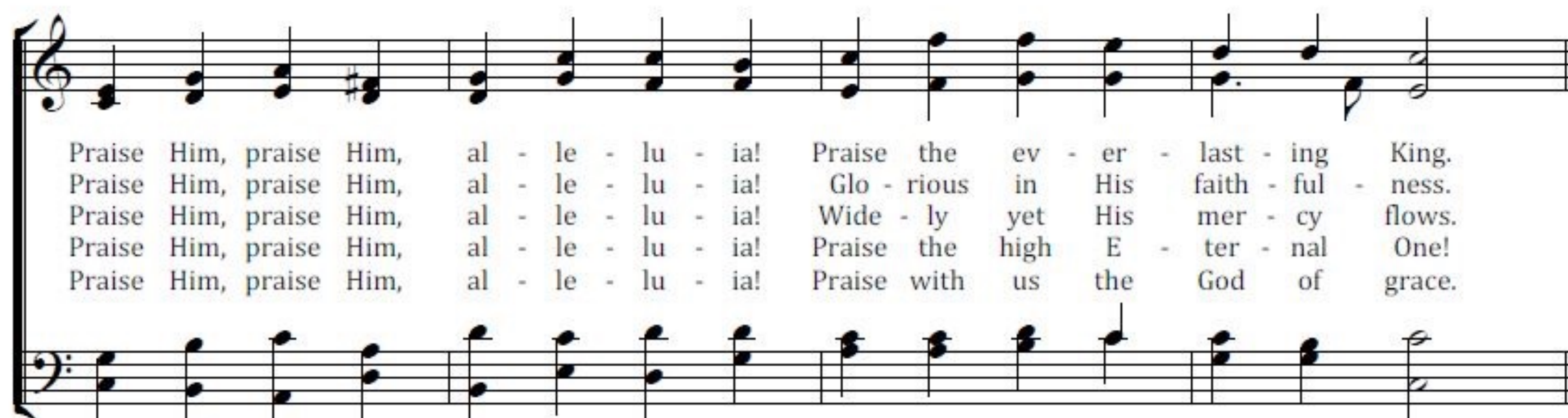
1. Praise, my soul, the King of Heav - en; To His feet thy tri - bute bring.
2. Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To our fa - thers in dis - tress;
3. Fa - ther - like He tends and spares us, Well our fee - ble frame He knows;
4. Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, Blows the wind and it is gone;
5. An - gels, help us to a - dore Him, Ye be - hold Him face to face;

103:1-5 / Stanza #1: Consider the LORD's Works in Your Life.



Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, Ev - er - more His prais - es sing:
Praise Him still the same as ev - er, Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
In His hands He gent - ly bears us, Res - cues us from all our foes.
But while mor - tals rise and per - ish, Our God lives un - chang - ing on.
Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him; Dwell - ers all in time and space,

103:6-14 / Stanza #2: Consider the LORD's Works in the Life of His People.



Praise Him, praise Him, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
Praise Him, praise Him, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.
Praise Him, praise Him, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.
Praise Him, praise Him, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the high E - ter - nal One!
Praise Him, praise Him, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

103:15-19 / Stanza #4: Consider the LORD's Dissimilarity to You.

103:20-22 / Stanza #5: Consider the LORD's Universal Worthiness.