## **Praise The Lord**

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Preacher: Pastor Sherry Mahar

[0:00] Maybe. Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you.

[3:08] Thank you. Amen. I'd like to invite you all to stand, if you're able, as we sing together the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah. Glory, glory, hallelujah. Glory, glory, hallelujah.

[4:11] His truth is marching on. He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall revamp the retreat.

He is sifting out the hearts of men before this judgment seat. Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer them. Be jubilant, my feet.

Our God is marching on. Glory, glory, hallelujah.

Glory, glory, hallelujah. Glory, glory, hallelujah.

His truth is marching on. He is coming like the glory of the morning of the wave.

[5:07] He is wisdom to the mighty. He is honor to the brave. So the world shall be his footstool and the soul of wrongly slave.

Our God is marching on. Glory, glory, hallelujah.

Glory, glory, hallelujah. Glory, glory, hallelujah.

His truth is marching on. Amen. The Lord be with you. Yes, we with you.

Please be seated. Good morning, everyone. It's such a beautiful day today.

Such wonderful things to be thankful for. Such marvelous things that God has done for us. Does anybody have any joy this morning? Something just bubbling within you you can't contain.

Yes, Sandy. We are thankful to have you back. Praise God for all that he's done for you.

Thank you. I know. I know. I'm so happy. It was just so wonderful to see her. Yes.

Amen. Yes. Janet, so good to see you this morning. Thank you. I'm thankful that I'm feeling better. I've been sick with this cold respiratory thing, and I'm feeling better.

Yes. Oh, that's wonderful. She had a visit from her brother she hasn't seen in 11 years. See? People are very thankful this morning and joyful for all that they have.

[7:09] I'm thankful because I have my family with me today. They're all here visiting, and I'm just so thankful to have my granddaughter Caitlin visiting me and Caleb. So as we are thankful for everything that God has given us, let us take our time to give in our offering.

Father than so. You know, I'm thankful for everything that I'm in alone now.

Even though I'm like, let us know the Father's in this thing, and let us know that he is. I don't want to experience my as that the Father's feeling. Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[9:19] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[11:49] Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Okay. Yes. Yes. Double pneumonia.

Okay. Yes. June? June? Jim. Okay.

Okay. Anybody else? Yes. Yes. Yes.

Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay. Let's go before the Lord in prayer. Let's go before the Lord in prayer. Let's go before the Lord in prayer. Amen.

[13:33] Amen. Give them.

Give them. Give them the Lord in prayer. Give them the right healthcare. Give them the right healthcare.

Give them the right healthcare. Give them doctors and nurses, Lord God, that have their concern at heart. thank you God for the miracles that you've given us by people coming back to church and people that have been diagnosed Lord God and they're here today Lord God as a testimony of your your prayer in our prayers Lord God I just thank you for that I pray Lord God for our pastors I pray for Pastor Sherry Lord God as she preaches today Lord that your Holy Spirit would just speak through her that you would just give her the anointing of God thank you that Pastor Lisa is being commissioned Lord God and that you have a call on her life too and I pray for Pastor Tom and Pastor Gene and all the other pastors in this church I pray for our trustees Lord God that you just be with them as they manage the finances in this in this congregation as they manage the day to day upkeep and God I pray for this nation as we celebrate Memorial Day Lord God as we look at the people and the lives that have lost in our nation Lord God our soldiers our men and women Lord God

I pray that this nation would be a lighthouse to the other nations Lord God that people would see you in us Lord I pray that you would help this nation to love the Lord their God with all their heart soul mind and strength and love our neighbor as ourself I pray for our troops Lord God that you would protect and keep them safe and Lord I pray that you would just be with this nation that you would help the leaders of this nation Lord God to bring light to this nation that they would have you in in their heart Lord God Lord I just thank you for the opportunity that we have to just come before you boldly Lord that you would give us victory in our situations that you would fight for us in every battle that you would be next to us and ahead of us Lord God and that you would help us Lord God in all situations in family situations and financial situations Lord God that you would just be with us Lord Jesus thank you for your sweet spirit thank you Lord God for all that you do and Lord as we leave this place later Lord God just put thank you in our heart in Jesus name I pray amen let's take the opportunity to listen to the word of the Lord good morning this is Luke 17 verses 11 through 19 now on his way to Jerusalem Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee as he was going into a village ten men who had leprosy met him they stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice Jesus master have pity on us when you saw them he said go show yourselves to the priest and as they went they were cleansed one of them when he said saw he was healed came back praising God in a loud voice he threw himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him and he was a

Samaritian Jesus asked were not all ten cleansed where are the other nine has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner then he said to him rise and go your faith has made you well this is the word of the Lord thank you Madeline so this morning's story Luke makes a point when writing it of saying that Jesus was heading toward Jerusalem meaning that Jesus is heading to the cross Jesus is going to be heading into that part of of his saving ministry and in the process he's going near Samaria and the reason that's in there is because it's not something that the Jewish people ever did they would actually make a point of avoiding Samaria at all costs because Samaritans were viewed as people of less than they were considered heretics they were mixed breeds they had taken the Jewish faith and mixed it up with a bunch of other stuff and they had intermarried and it was just like they were considered to be unclean unholy unworthy unwelcome and they were despised and so the Jewish people in general would avoid

[19:02]

Samaritans which is why when Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan he was making a really strong point you know these are people and Samaritans are just as worthy and just as good as people who can say they love God so Jesus is heading toward this village and it says that there were ten men with leprosy and they stood at a distance now leprosy at that time could be any kind of skin disease but it could also very well be leprosy like we know it in its most extreme form leprosy is something that is disfiguring it will cause you to lose pieces of your body pieces of your face it will cause you to basically rot your skin it's just awful it's painful you go blind and what would happen was that the people who were proclaimed to have leprosy because there was a real concern about it being contagious they said you are then required to go out of the community you may not be near us we cannot have any contact with you you may not have any contact with us so people who had leprosy were basically given a death sentence they were cut off from everything physically they were going to be cut off with this death sentence but also they were cut off from their family they were cut off from their community they were cut off from their jobs the only way they could ever get any money or any food was to beg because they had no opportunity and lepers at that point what they would say is they were required to actually wear torn clothing and keep their hair all disheveled so that at a distance people could actually see that someone who has unclean unclean in fact people at that time thought that the reason they had leprosy was clearly because they were sinners they had done something wrong and so from a distance they were seen as unclean in fact they had to take their robe and put it over their face at the bottom of their face if they came near anyone and they'd have to shout out unclean unclean warning everyone to stay away

I mean can you imagine if we every time we came anywhere we had to shout out what our sins were can you imagine gossiper gossiper liar stealer cheater wow so they're cut off from community and our own sin does the same thing sin makes us sick sin makes us isolated sin puts us in a state of need and so that sin that sickness isolation and need they're actually brought out and they're they're not even allowed to be within 150 feet of people of people anything they touch has to be burned can you imagine being treated that way and they call out to Jesus they call out from a distance it says because that's what they had to do and Jesus responds just like when we are faced with our own sin and we shout out to God

Jesus responds and they call out saying Jesus master have pity on us and some translations say have mercy on us and Jesus responds because he saw them it says he saw them people people who were generally not seen and says Jesus saw them just like he sees us but here's the thing when you notice the story he doesn't heal the lepers in a way that he does other healings he doesn't do like he did with the blind man and take some mud and put it on the eyes he doesn't lay hands on them he doesn't even go near them what he does is he just tells them to be obedient because he says go and tell the priests now the reason they had to tell the priests was because if you were a leper the only way you could get back into community was if a priest fully examined you you were then declared completely clean and then you would go through once you're declared perfectly clean then you would go through several days of ceremonial and ritualistic practices in order to be reinstated into community okay so going to sell the priest means

I'm going to be healed I'll be presenting myself as healed but Jesus didn't heal them at that time it says as they went they were healed which means that they started off with incredible obedience with incredible trust to say I'm going to listen to Jesus and do what Jesus says in spite of my not having any proof whatsoever that what he says is real that what he says is true that what he says is really going to happen just like for us when we are told by Jesus go and do do we need proof or can we walk in that faith can we walk in that obedience can we walk in that trust knowing that God will do what God is going to do and that God is always good they all went and it says as they were going they were healed now can you imagine that moment these lepers which actually there were lepers that were Samaritans and Jews mixed together something that normally didn't happen but when you're made someone who's ostracized you find others like yourselves and as they're going down the path they see themselves healed healed can you imagine the sores gone everything gone what's your reaction when you see

God in motion they're healed oh how do you react how do we respond when we see God moving how do we respond we have to make a choice at that time how we respond and they did lots of different ways of doing it actually two different ways I mean when you receive an incredible gift what is it we treat our children to say please and thank you I mean it's one of the most early things we teach our children we say thank you it's like some torturous moments sometimes when you watch your child receive a gift and you're like please say thank you please say thank you please say thank you and when they don't you say what do you say and you know it's just something that we want to make sure we do because it offers a connection it offers a response that is of appreciation and so you know my son

Joshua when he was about three years old we had a birthday party for him and it was one of those birthday parties where everybody's an adult except his little sister you know it's like he's three whatever and we're all sitting in a circle at one point and it was time for the gifts and he received this one gift and it was again that oh please say thank you please say thank you and he I will always remember this he got this gift and he like slowly opened it like in awe that he received something and when he saw it he was like wow and he walked over to the person that had given it to him arms wide open he's like thank you I was like oh proud mama moment yes yes he got it and he did that with you know because then I thought oh maybe that was just the first one he did that with every single gift every single time and it's like yes now can I say that he did that every time in his entire life

I don't know can we say that we've always expressed gratitude every time in our entire life probably not but you know we're called to as people of God you know we're supposed to be expressing thanks in all areas because we've been given such a great gift from God and it's so easy to just be so self-centered and focusing on what we're doing and what's good for us that we really don't see out we don't see others we don't see what's going on you know it's Memorial Day weekend and I confess that Memorial Day weekend unfortunately for me immediately sparks day off I'm gonna get my planting done we're gonna have a barbecue we're gonna do the me me me right and it's like no stop think pray praise there are people who don't have loved ones anymore because they gave their lives for me and my freedom whoa that's a game changer that surpasses whether or not

I'll get my plants in can I still get my plants in yeah will I hopefully but it's a taking the time to really put everything in perspective you know we if we as people of God walked through life with with an intentional attitude of gratitude this society would have huge changes for the better we have people who are in our lives and in the communities you know just because somebody's paid to do something doesn't mean that we don't we shouldn't thank them you know that waitress that comes and gives me my glass of water yes she's going to be paid to do that but I'm really thankful she did it those people that are paving the roads I'm thankful for them the people that are teaching our children I'm thankful for them how are we expressing ourselves you know I can't tell you the number of times that teenagers are telling me that of the people who are just horrible to them as they're trying their very best to work in a job and someone orders their double latte mocha whatever and nasty not a thank you you know last night

I ended up in the emergency room I'm fine it's all good except that I got no sleep but other than that I'm fine but in the process when I got there the one nurse he was kind of bristly you know he was really kind of you know and after he did some things and he starts walking I said well thank you and he he stopped and he turned around and he gave me this huge smile and he said you're welcome and his attitude from that point on completely changed you know we have the power to change what's around us when we open our eyes to see other people and see what other people are giving you know we have in this church we actually have a policy that we don't publicly thank people and the reason is because number one there would probably be a tendency to lift up the people who are more prominent you know doing the big things that everybody notices while slews of people who are doing the behind the scenes things are not recognized and so we don't want to do that and we also don't want to create a culture where people are serving in order to be thanked that kind of misses the point we do it because we love God and we love each other but that doesn't mean that loving each other means that we don't see each other and we shouldn't be appreciating everyone and saying thank you

I for one am really really thankful for all of you and what you do with this church because this church would not run without you this ministry would not be here without you and I am so grateful and so thankful for you and we should be lifting each other up in that way in our own family we have a tendency to kind of take it all for granted you know after a while it's like well that's what they do that's what I do and I'm focused on my own thing I was reading this blog recently of this woman and I think she was really brave for putting it out there the way she did she starts off by saying I am doing everything around the house my husband doesn't appreciate me I'm doing everything and she goes on this rant right so she actually worked to set him up and what she did was she decided she was going to make a list of absolutely everything that had to happen in the house to make the house run and she threw in a couple things that she knew he did just so it didn't seem like so much of a setup right but she knew darn well that when they sat down to look at this list it would become really clear that she was doing everything and he needed to be thankful he needed to step it up and so she goes

I don't recommend this by the way so she goes and she takes this list and she sits down with her husband and says you know I think we need to really discuss the things that are going on around here and you know I made a list of all the things that need to happen and he's like well that's a very incomplete list after looking at it oh what do you mean I put down everything really I don't see lawn care on there or how about taking care of the finances or how about taking care of the taxes or how about making all the travel arrangements and I mean he just kept going down over and tons of things she had just oblivious to just take him for granted right down to the point of and getting the creepy crawly things out of the house and official spider killer and so this big aha she was expecting from him aha she got the aha whose eyes were closed whose eyes are closed you know you miss the big picture when you're so focused on yourself and it's so easy to do becoming focused on what we want and what we're doing and how we need to be appreciated but if we're doing it with an act of love the ten lepers they're all healed wow make a choice how are you going to respond nine of the lepers lepers that were

Jewish which means that they were people who followed God they said they were God followers they were Jewish and they decided to keep on going to the priests why because it was good for them they got to be restored back to community they got to get their family back they were excited to be able to move forward in their life and they wanted to do that for them and it's such a dangerous way to respond because on the one hand yeah you get it you know how many of us with faith that wouldn't say yes I get to do this and yet we forget to thank God we forget that God should be the priority in all of these things that God should be the one taking the first response you know there's also a danger did they expect it were they were they taking God moving in this way for granted a lot of times we'll just revert back to self we'll revert back to self and yet we need to make sure that we are recognizing

God's love God's mercy God's great gift not because we deserve it in any way but because God loved us in our church family in our family family you know we don't want to take people for granted we want to make sure we're showing appreciation I am so thankful for everyone here thankful for my family thankful for everyone with different gifts you know official spider killer I am thankful for you but the Samaritan the Samaritan was the least likely to respond the Samaritan was the one who was unclean unworthy not a God follower the one who was least expected to because people who claimed they were following God should have had that on their heart and responded immediately with thanks but it was the Samaritan who was doubly cursed or cursed because he was a

Samaritan cursed because he had leprosy doubly cursed who became doubly blessed and he responded with incredible thanksgiving we we need to open our eyes and open our hearts to what God is doing in our lives and the people in our lives that are doing it and see God and praise God to give thanks to one another and walk in that attitude and one of the other things I noticed with this is something that's not in the story when that Samaritan came back he did not throw himself at the feet of Jesus and praise God and say praise you Jesus but you know what that heaven leprosy thing that wasn't fair at all I didn't like that at all it wasn't fair it wasn't right you know and just but praise you but no he didn't come back with a glass half empty he didn't even come back with a glass half full he came back with a glass overflowing overflowing with gratitude overflowing with praise overflowing with love overflowing whatever was past is past

God is here God is moving God is good praise the Lord and he humbly throws himself at his feet and he says loudly loudly unabashedly boldly praise the Lord wow that's the response that's the response and Jesus seeing this response says your faith has made you well and that word well is sozo which means saved your faith has saved you meaning salvation those others yeah they were healed physically but this Samaritan with that attitude of gratitude he was saved wow wow I'm going to invite you to say a prayer along with me a prayer of confession as we open up our eyes and our hearts won't you pray

Lord I haven't always seen your blessings I haven't always had a grateful heart sometimes I've taken others for granted sometimes I've taken you for granted take away my sin please forgive me open the eyes of my heart that I may see you put thankfulness into my heart put thankfulness into my soul let me speak it let me sing it let me live it that I might praise you boldly as one who is saved from my sin in Jesus' name I pray amen

I'm going to invite you if you're able to stand and sing with us open the eyes of my heart open the eyes of my heart Lord open the eyes of my heart I want to see you open the eyes of my heart open the eyes of my heart I want to see you I want to see you I want to see you

I want to see you I want to see you I want to see you high and lifted up sharing in the light of your glory pour out your power and love as we sing holy, ho

Lord open the eyes of my heart I want to see you I want to see you good news the good news Christ died for us while we were yet sinners and this proves God's love for you and for me so in the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven glory to God amen glory to God amen no, I don't think so no glory to God amen let me hear it glory to God amen glory to God amen you know, Martin Luther said he defined worship as the tenth leper coming back the tenth leper coming back is what worship is all about and so we come here to praise the Lord let me hear you praise the Lord praise the Lord now praise the Lord as if you were just saved from your sins praise the Lord praise the Lord as if God loves you praise the Lord praise the Lord as if you had eternal life praise the Lord come on praise the Lord as if your sins are forgiven praise the Lord yes yes because we are here to praise God and to walk in that praise and that thanksgiving for all that God has done to us and with that praise that we carry through we're gonna sing it we're gonna live it we're gonna know it song of love we're gonna sing a song of love giving thanks to God

Jesus King of my heart Father my peace and my life is here in the joy of my soul you are Jesus Jesus do you not command Father I rest in your care for steering the hope of my heart you are the heavens declare you are God and the mountains rejoice the oceans cry hallelujah as we worship you Lord this is our song of love

Jesus you save my soul I thank you forevermore Lord Jesus the love of my life you are the heavens declare you are God and the mountains rejoice the oceans cry hallelujah as we worship you Lord for this is our song of love Jesus I am in all the love that you have shown Jesus how precious you are to me to me heavens declare you are God and the mountains rejoice the oceans my hallelujah as we worship you Lord this is our song of love in this scripture the word thank is eucharisto which means which is where we got the word eucharist from communion communion a time we actually call it the great thanksgiving a time where we thank God for who God is and what God has done and so with that spirit of thanksgiving in our hearts as we prepare for the great thanksgiving let's greet one another with that peace of the Holy Spirit peace be with you peace peace peace peace peace

As morning dawns and evening fades, you inspire songs of praise and rise from earth to touch your heart and glorify your name.

Your name is a strong and mighty tower. Your name is a shelter like a water.

Your name let the nation sing it louder. There's nothing else of power to say, but your name.

As morning dawns and evening fades, you inspire songs of praise that rise from earth to touch your heart and glorify your name.

[48:49] Your name is a strong and mighty tower. Your name is a shelter like no other.

Your name let the nation sing it louder. There's nothing else of power to say, but your name is a strong and mighty tower.

Your name is a shelter like no other. Your name let the nation sing it louder.

There's nothing else of power to say, but your name is a strong and mighty tower. Jesus, in your name we pray.

Come and fill our hearts today. Forgive us today to live for you and glorify your name.

[50:03] Amen. Amen. Are you thankful this morning? Are you thankful? I don't know.

I wasn't in here, so I don't know if Pastor Sherry had you do this or not, but I want you to take just a minute and get real quiet. And I want you to think of those things that God has blessed you with, that you are so thankful for, and lift them up as an offering to God, as you lift yourself up before God, offering everything that you are, everything that God's given you.

Let's offer it before God right now silently in thanksgiving. God loves us so much.

God has sent his Son, and his Son has invited us to come to the table. If you love God, if you repent of your sin, if you seek to live in peace as a disciple of Jesus Christ, you are welcome to come to the table this morning.

God will meet with you here. Oh, God can meet with you anywhere. God can meet with you when you're out for a walk in the woods. God can meet with you first thing in the morning when you wake up before you even roll out of bed.

[51:42] God can meet with you in the best and most joyous circumstances of life, and when you're in the depths of despair, God can meet with you there. But this, this is a more special place, because it's a place where God said, do this in remembrance of me.

Do this remembering everything that I have taught you. Do this remembering how much I love you.

You are welcome to come to the table this morning. Whether it's your first time here or you've been coming all your life, whether you've called yourself a Christian since before you can even remember, or today is the day that you said, wow, I need to follow this Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life.

You are welcome to come to the table and meet with God. The Lord be with you. Absolutely. Lift up your hearts. Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to be our thanks and grace. It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

[53:05] In the beginning, your spirit moved over the face of the waters. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

Your spirit came upon prophets and teachers, and you anointed them to speak your word. So with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Holy are you and blessed is your son Jesus Christ. At his baptism in the Jordan, your spirit descended upon him and declared him your beloved son.

With your spirit upon him, he turned away the temptations of sin. Your spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

[54:23] He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire as on the day of Pentecost.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread and he gave thanks to you. He broke the bread, and he gave it to his disciples saying, take and eat.

This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

And when the supper was over, he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks and praise, and he gave it to his disciples, and he said, drink from this all of you.

[55:29] This is the cup of my blood. The blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here. And on these gifts of bread and wine, make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood and empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

[ 56:55] Shall we pray together with the confidence of dearly beloved children of God, the prayer that Jesus taught us? Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen. Will those who are serving this morning please come forward. Amen. Amen. Thank you.

Thank you.

[58:41] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[61:11] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.
Thank you.

[63:41] Thank you.
Thank you.