



OSL in Canada

The Canadian Healer

Fall, 2022



Psalm 150

¹ Praise the LORD.

**Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.**

**² Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

**³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,**

**⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,**

**⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.**

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD

Who me, a Sinner?

A Bible Study

Rev. Canon D.A.P. Smith

I recall an after-dinner conversation I had not long ago with a couple of good friends who are members of our parish. The talk had turned to Church affairs, and I found myself saying, "... of course, we are all sinners". The immediate response to that was, "But I am not a sinner!". So I went on to say, "Well, you're human like the rest of us, so like the rest of us you must be a sinner too." This appeared to fluster my friend badly because she suddenly got up out of her chair and went out into the kitchen where I could hear her mutter – loudly enough to ensure that I could hear her - "But I am NOT a sinner!!"

I think hers is a very common attitude these days. We are all so prone to encourage each other with "positive reinforcement" – especially our children – that most of us have come to believe that we are really totally capable, and thoroughly knowledgeable, and much wiser than others.

Now, we all need encouragement and acceptance to bolster our self-confidence, but unless from time to time we are brought up short - probably by someone who questions the things we are saying - we tend to convince ourselves that we know it all and there is nothing left for us to learn. So we refuse to listen to others when they try to give us advice or when they put forth an idea different from our own. We believe that we never do anything wrong, never have to say "I'm sorry", and certainly we have nothing whatever to confess to God. We know there are many troubles in the world, and much suffering, but we say. "That's not my fault. Those things are caused by others!"

Do people nowadays really think that way? That certainly is my perception, and I find it reinforced every evening as I listen to the TV news. We are all so critical of each other, especially of those in authority, and we are so rarely critical of ourselves. We have, in fact, made ourselves the ultimate Authority.

That, of course, is exactly opposite to the Christian point of view, so it is no wonder that in our churches these days there are so few

younger people. Modern folk just cannot accept what Christians have to say, and especially when they declare that we are all, in fact, grievous sinners!!

And yet, that is what we read in the Bible.

The Old Testament tells us:

1. This is God's world, not ours. He made it¹, and he has created us also and put us into this world to care for it and enjoy it².

2. But we think we know better than God. We do the very thing that God tells us not to do: that is, we disobey God³ with the result that our lives are not all goodness and peace. Instead, it is often hard, violent, oppressive and difficult⁴.

3. Yet God continues to love his creation, and so instead of destroying it, he redeems it. He begins by singling out a certain man, Abraham (or Abram)⁵ so that through his descendants, the Jews, he can create a people for himself.

4. At Mount Sinai he enters into a covenant with them, i.e: He will be their God; he will guide them, protect them, and care for them; and they must be faithful to him (i.e. worship only him) and be obedient (i.e. keep his commandments) reflecting his nature and glory. That is, he enters into a relationship of love with them.⁶

5. BUT, his people are distracted by the fascinations of this world and, forsaking their God, go their own ways⁷. That is, they disobey God. They are sinners.

6. Still, God does not give up. In his love he sends reminders of the consequences of their Sin:

- there are invasions by foreign armies⁸;
- there are infestations of locusts, drought and famines;
- the people suffer disease and exile⁹.

And God sends his prophets to explain to them the cause of their ordeals and to call them back to their Lord¹⁰.

7. Even so, the people are not what God wants them to be. No matter how hard they try to obey the Law of Moses (the Pharisees are those who try the hardest) they fail to meet God's standards. They need help because they cannot do it by themselves. So they look for a Messiah (a "Christ"; an "Anointed One") to come and be their Saviour and usher in God's Kingdom¹¹.

The New Testament tells us

1. God fulfills his program of Redemption. He sends his Son into this troubled and sinful world, born of a woman just like the rest of us¹², to share with us this life with all its temptations and trials¹³. He is a Jew, one of God's People, yet perfectly obedient to his Father's will; that is, he is without Sin¹⁴. He is "Emmanuel ... God with us¹⁵". His self-offering on the Cross pays for our Sin so that we, being penitent, can be forgiven¹⁶.

2. But first, people must be prepared to receive him. So John the Baptist, the last of the prophets, calls the nation to repentance, to acknowledge that they are indeed sinners and need God's help¹⁷.

3. Jesus begins his Ministry. Mark (his is the first of the four Gospels, written about A.D. 65) introduces Jesus' Ministry with these words: "Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news (the Gospel) of God and saying... repent and believe in the good news.¹⁸"

The basis of our response to Jesus is REPENTANCE and FAITH. ("Faith" is a topic to be considered on its own, and we shall look at it another time.)

4. The Sermon on the Mount affirms God's commandments¹⁹ in fact it delves beyond the letter of the law and probes into the very principles of what it means to be righteous. It teaches us (among other things) to be penitent and to pray for forgiveness²⁰.

5. Two parables of Jesus involving penitence:

i) Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son²¹ illustrates how God our Heavenly Father receives to himself those who come to him in penitence. It then goes on to show how those who presume upon their righteousness, as does the older brother, find themselves left outside in the cold.

ii) Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector²² tells us that the Tax Collector, because he was so aware of his unworthiness and begged for God's mercy, was the one who was "justified" by God .

6. Peter's Pentecost Sermon calls on the people to "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven."²³

7. Paul reminds the Christians of Rome that "God's kindness is meant to lead [us] to repentance."²⁴

To the Christians in Corinth he says, "I rejoice because your grief led to repentance ... a repentance that leads to salvation."²⁵

8. The Letter to the Ephesians tells us "You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self... and be renewed in the spirit of your minds... created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness"²⁶: in other words, to repent and be brought to God.

9. Peter reminds us that the Christian life is a constant struggle, and that we should be always on guard against the wiles of the devil who would lure us away from the ways of God²⁷. We know we often succumb to our temptations and so we have to return again and again to God in penitence.

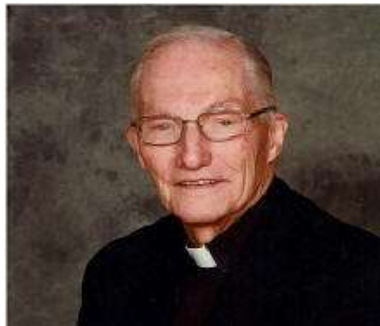
When we look back at the lives of the great saints we find one common characteristic: they all regarded themselves as sinners. The Church recognizes their holiness because they so obviously reflected the holiness of God; but because they were holy, they were aware just how far they fell short of the perfection to which we all are called; they knew their unworthiness. And yet their lives were filled with joy and gladness because they also knew that they were loved, forgiven, and accepted by God.

Those who are not penitent, those who do not regard themselves as sinners and stand aloof from the mercy of God, they are the ones who, like the Prodigal Son's older brother, are in danger of missing the party!²⁸

Notes to study.

The Bible quotations are all from the New Revised Standard Version.

1. Genesis 1: 1 "In the beginning ... God created the heavens and the earth."
2. Genesis 2: 7, 8 & 15 "... the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground ... planted a garden in Eden ... and there he put the man ... to till it and keep it."
3. Genesis 3: 1 – 6 "... she took of the fruit and ate ..."
4. Genesis 3: 14 - 19 "Because you have done this ... by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread."
5. Genesis 12: 1-4 "... the Lord said to Abram, 'Go ...' So Abram went."
6. Exodus 19: 5 "... if you obey my voice and keep my covenant you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples." 19: 8 "The people all answered: 'Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.'"
7. Judges 2: 11-13 "Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord... They abandoned the Lord, and worshiped Baal."
8. 2 Kings 18: 9-12 The fall of Samaria, the Northern Kingdom. 24: 8-17. The fall of Jerusalem, the Southern Kingdom; 25: 1-21 The destruction of Jerusalem.
9. Amos 4:9 - 5:15 The invasion of locusts, 7:1 and the famine, 8:1, Lamentations 1:1ff.
10. Isaiah 1:2-7
11. Malachi 4:5 "I will send you the prophet Elijah." 3:1 "I am sending my messenger... and the Lord... will suddenly come to his temple."
12. Luke 1: 31 & 32 "... you will conceive in your womb and bear a son ... He will be called the Son of the Most High."
13. Matthew 4:1 ff. "Jesus was... tempted by the devil."
14. Hebrews 4:15 "Jesus, the Son of God ... in every respect has been tested as we are... yet without sin."
15. Matthew 1:23 "Emmanuel... God with us."
16. 1 John 2:2 "Jesus Christ... is the atoning sacrifice for our sin... and for the sins of the whole world."
17. Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one... coming after me... will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
18. Mark 1:14 & 15
19. Matthew 5:1 - 7:28
20. Matthew 6:12 "Forgive us our debts [sins]."
21. Luke 15:11 ff.
22. Luke 18:9 ff.
23. Acts 2:38
24. Romans 2:4
25. 2 Corinthians 7:9 & 10
26. Ephesians 4:22 -24
27. 1 Peter 5:6 -9 "Humble yourselves... Discipline yourselves, keep alert... Resist (the devil)."
28. Cf. Revelation 9:20 & 21.



The Rev. Canon David (DAP) Smith

Although retired after many years as pastor, Canon DAP Smith still takes services when requested. He established an OSL Chapter in Perth, served as Director for OSL Region 8 for two 4-year terms, and was elected to the OSL North American Board of Directors for two terms. David recently released his latest book *Lord Teach Us To Pray*, following *A Handbook of THE FAITH* for Anglicans published in 2001. Rev. Smith and his wife, Margot, live in Perth, ON. To order books or for more information contact dap.smith@sympatico.ca

The Statement of Faith as found in the Emblem and Motto of OSL



JESU ESTO MIHI JESUS - DUX - LUX - REX - LEX Roughly translated this means: "O Jesus, be to me my Saviour (Healer), my Leader, my Light, my King, and my Law."

PROCLAMATION AND EXPLANATION

Colin C M Campbell, PhD

When I read the healing accounts in the book of the Acts, I am always struck how short and to the point the healing prayers are. This point was not lost on their pagan admirers, such as Simon Magus and, on the three sons of Sceva. They assumed that the apostles must have a secret formula or a magical incantation and you will recall how the sons of Sceva tried to mimic the words with comical results. As we know, the secret formula is the Holy Spirit. How the Holy Spirit operates was counterintuitive to the people at that time, just as it is to us today.

Many of Christianity's greatest thinkers, such as St Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and in our own time, CS Lewis, operated by explanation. They devoted their lives trying to explain the Gospel to people and people like me, who earn their living by teaching, derive a great deal of pleasure from reading their writings.

However, neither Jesus nor the Apostles operated in this way. They did not operate by explanation. They operated by proclamation. Jesus did not come to explain God's Kingdom. He came to proclaim it. He did not have to explain it. It was self-evident that the Kingdom had arrived from the signs and wonders that accompanied the proclamation. You only need to explain the Kingdom when your version of Christianity is not accompanied by signs and wonders. Even St. Thomas and Saint Augustine, the two greatest apologists of the Western Church, came to see this. St. Thomas, after having a profound spiritual experience, said everything that he had written was "as straw." He never wrote another word. St Augustine said, "Do not try to understand in order to have faith. First, seek to have faith in order to understand." People are not convinced of the value of Christianity when they finally understand everything. They are transformed by the encounter with Jesus Christ, as they were in Jesus' time.

Now if you use this language in parts of Churchland today, not everyone will understand you. One of my dear friends was a priest and he tried to be kind to me. He said, "Colin, you are using 'the language.'" The trouble with using that kind of language is that people do not understand it." When the

healing ministry is presented as proclamation, to a sophisticated, well-mannered audience, raised on a diet of explanation, it is likely to be rejected out of hand. Paul found this when he preached to Greek philosophers on the Agora, using their method of explanation, instead of proclamation. Not much has changed. When you use the language of proclamation, people, like my friend, will be kind at first, then group pressure will have its way and, if the friendship is to be sustained, you end up using the language of explanation.

Neither Jesus nor the apostles fell into the trap. It is only too easy to overthink a situation of healing prayer and to make it overly complicated. The solution is to back out of rationalism and for the intercessor first to enter the presence of Jesus, then to invite the supplicant to do the same and to go with the flow. It is here that my friend begins to look at his watch and to make excuses to leave. So, in deference to him, I will make a brief digression into the language of explanation.

In the Gospels, tax collectors and sinners were immediately transformed by the presence of Jesus. They discovered in him a new life that cleansed them of their sin and transformed their behavior. This was not a gradual spiritual ascent arrived at by a progressive understanding. They had been given a completely fresh start in life. They had been "born again." It was the transforming presence of Jesus that caused penitents to be healed in the Gospels. The same is true today. Jesus may no longer be materially present but he is present through the Holy Spirit. If someone finds that language offensive then the reason is quite simple. They have never had the experience. To such a person, I would say, "If you really do not understand what it is to experience the presence of Jesus, then do not ask him to show himself to you, because if you do, he's liable to show up!" And that is my final word on the language of explanation.

When the Gospel is proclaimed correctly, it has transforming power. Lives are transformed. The phrase that is used is that these persons have been "born again." Does that mean that such a person has reached a state of impeccability? No, of course not! We

all continue to need healing. However, there are there are two different ways to pursue healing or - to use the theological term - sanctification. One (wrong) way is by trying to be more spiritual using your own resources. The other way is to be transformed by faith, whatever that means. What to be born again means to me is to have a spiritual experience in which you know that you are loved by Jesus, without conditions. That does not mean that you have reached a state of impeccability. It does mean, in one sense that that does not matter. Impeccability is not the issue. The issue is what are the grounds for me to be loved by Jesus? And the answer is: there are none! So, lapses and falling away will take place. Impeccability is not the issue.

The issue is what are the grounds for me to be loved by Jesus? And the answer is: there are none! So, lapses and falling away will take place. Sin is an ongoing reality. But spiritual growth is not a progressive ascent to find the love of Jesus. It is a successive return to the previously found love of Jesus. It is a return to the same point. There is indeed progress, as through these encounters, more and more blocks to fullness of life are removed. However, the change is in our relationship with ourselves, not in our relationships with Jesus. Our relationship with him remains the way that it was when we were first born into fullness of life – one of a grateful disciple, loved unconditionally.



Colin C. M. Campbell, PhD

Colin Campbell is a long-time member of OSL, former President of The International Order of St Luke the Physician Board of Directors, and was elected the member for Canada on that Board for two terms. Colin is also Interim Director of OSL Region 8 (Ontario), Convenor of the OSL Hamilton Chapter and co-host of OSL Canada Online Healing Community. Colin is a secondary school teacher and may be contacted at ccmcampbell@gmail.com

Would you share your Testimony!

Would you consider sharing your healing or the Goodness of God in your life in order to encourage others? The length of your article can be up to 2 pages. If possible, please include a photo and short bio - or simply put your story in an email and we'll send a proof for your approval.

Deadlines: March 15th... August 15th ... and November 15th.
Email to editor@oslCanada.org



The Feast of St. Luke is October 18th

Celebrated on Sunday, October 16th

Will your church have healing prayer teams?

Hymn of The Order of St Luke

Breathe On Me Breath of God

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew, That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure, Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly Thine, Until this earthly part of me Glows with Thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die, But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

To book a private prayer session with trained ministers visit www.oslToday.org
For prayer requests visit <https://onlinecenterforhealingprayer.com/prayer-requests/>

To pray with one another on the first Sunday of every month
Visit <https://oslcanada.org/HealingCommunity.htm>

Register now to receive the Zoom Link for October 16 (postponed from Oct 2nd)



In Everything Give Thanks!

Rev. Deacon Keith Bird

Scripture tells us “In all things give thanks” (1 Thessalonians 5:18) It is easy to give thanks when things are going well for us and when we have reason to express our gratitude to God, but what about those times when disappointment, heart-ache, frustration or fear looms its ugly head... are we expected to give thanks then? Yes!

We are exhorted to give thanks “in” all things... not for all things. Whenever fear, frustration or bad news lights upon our spirits we have a choice. The enemy of our soul seeks only to kill, steal and destroy” John 10:10, but in the same verse, Jesus tells us, “I came that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly.

When we choose to focus on the bad news, frustration or fear, we are inviting more of the same and are serving the one who wants to kill our hope, steal our Joy, and destroy our faith.

When we choose to give thanks, we align our thoughts to trust in God, and are immediately reminded that God is with us; we are not alone even in the face of death, and that God will fight for us and sustain us:

“Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Psalm 23

- “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 36
- Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help

you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

- Our focus of thanking God in our circumstances brings a sense of peace, calm and assurance.

It is human to become discouraged and frustrated... it is the way of the world and yes... even for the child of God we have times of discouragement and frustration... even fear. But how we respond makes all the difference!

We are instructed in Philippians 4:6-7: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **(And here’s the promise)**: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **(And again... here’s the promise)**: and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4: 8-9

To give thanks in every circumstance is a choice, and yes and sometimes also a sacrifice that goes against what we feel. May God richly bless us all as we seek to trust and give thanks to Him in all things!

Keith Bird serves the Anglican parish of St. Luke’s in Calgary, Alberta. He is editor of the Canadian Healer newsletter, host of OSL Online Conference calls and co-host of OSL in Canada Online Healing Community. Keith organized several Schools of Pastoral Care, and was elected to the Canadian seat for the OSL NA Board of Directors in 2021.

On The Calendar

OSL North America Conference

Clothe Me With JOY!"

October 20-22

4 Keynote Speakers - 16 Workshops

For your invitation visit

<https://oslcanada.org/naConference2022.html>



**OSL Online Conference Calls
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**Anointed Teaching
Healing Conversations
Your Questions Answered**

Nov 20: Dr Russ Parker: Generational Healing

Get the Zoom link at

<https://www.oslRegion8.org/online.htm>

Check out the OSL Canada Online Healing Community
Receive prayer & learn more about praying for others
1st Sunday of every month (except January)

Oct 2: Overview of the Unbound Model - A brief teaching on the Five Key Process to healing

Nov 6: Surrender and Listen - A teaching on the importance of surrendering to the Holy Spirit and ability to listen

Dec 1: The Power of Our Words - How our words create an atmosphere that affects attitudes toward ourselves and others as well as the way we live our lives

For more information and Zoom Link visit

<https://www.oslcanada.org/HealingCommunity.htm>



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Happy Thanksgiving!



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