

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with Praise

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Give Thanks to the Lord

November 30, 2025

Sermon Text: Psalm 100

Scripture Reading: Psalm 98

It is the thanksgiving season once more in which we are supposed to be reminded to give thanks to the Lord for who He is and for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us this past year.

This 100th Psalm is a call, as was the 98th which we have just read, to all the nations and specifically to the Lord's people, to give Him the thanks due to Him. We need to be reminded of this because of the sin which still plagues the Christian. We are new creations, people who

have been born again, and yet as long as we are in this world and in these fallen bodies we must battle the sin which remains in our flesh. And one fundamental sin is *unthankfulness*.

Listen to Psalm 100 and then we will move in for a closer look at what the Psalmist is saying to us –

A Psalm for Thanksgiving.

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise. Give

thanks to Him, bless His name. For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations. (Psa 100:1-5)

One of the major themes of this Psalm is ***genuine, enthusiastic, gladness and joy.*** What is the reason for it? Why should we be so glad that our response to the Lord is ***a loud shout?*** You have the same thing in that 98th which we read:

Psa 98:4-7 **Shout joyfully** to the LORD, all the earth; **Break forth and sing** for joy and sing praises. (5) Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, With the lyre and the sound of melody. (6) **With trumpets** and the sound of the horn **Shout joyfully** before the King, the LORD. (7) **Let the sea roar** and all it contains, The world and those who dwell in it.

This call for a joyful shout and the singing of praises is a repeated theme in the Psalms:

Psa 47:1-9 For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. O clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of joy. (2) For the LORD Most High is to be feared, A great King over all the earth. (3) He subdues peoples under us And nations under our feet. (4) He chooses our inheritance for us, The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah. (5) God has ascended with a shout, The LORD, with the sound of a trumpet. (6) Sing praises to God, sing praises; Sing praises to our King, sing praises. (7) For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with a skillful psalm. (8) God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne. (9) The princes of the people have assembled themselves as the people of the God of Abraham, For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted.

Again-

Psa 66:1-2 For the choir director. A Song. A Psalm. Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; (2) Sing the

glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.

Psa 95:1 O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

We could go on and on. Even Isaiah calls all the world to the same thing-

Isa 12:5-6 Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; Let this be known throughout the earth. (6) Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

What is the basis for this shouting and great joy? *It is the Lord Himself. Who He is and for what He has done.*

Now, let's think very carefully and compare what Scripture is describing with what we see in ourselves. When we gather on the Lord's day, we come to worship Him and give Him thanks and to

hear His Word and glory over its truths. But do we experience in ourselves what the Psalms is describing? We must all confess that our worship falls quite short of this. Once in a while the Christian might experience this kind of joy in response to who the Lord is and for what He has done, but those occasions are rather rare. Why? Because we are not yet glorified. As John put it - *it has not yet appeared what we shall be.*

The saints in heaven right now do *break forth and sing for joy....making a loud shout before the King.* But not us. We only see the Lord in a glass darkly, but one day we will see Him face to face in all His beauty and glory and we will join the choirs in heaven doing exactly what the Psalms describe. And every real Christian yearns for this:

Rom 8:19-23 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who

subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (23) And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Man in Sin Refuses to Give Thanks

The fundamental, most wicked sin which more quickly arouses the wrath of God is: *unthankfulness*. Or more accurately, *refusal to acknowledge God and give thanks to Him*. We see it exposed by the Apostle Paul:

Rom 1:18-23 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (19) because that which is known about God is

evident within them; for God made it evident to them. (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (21) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, (23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Many people actively and openly curse God and rebel against Him. But others, even those so-called “moral and good” types, are rebels just as well. Why? Because they live their lives as if God were *irrelevant*. You see it here – “*they do not honor Him as God or give thanks.*” That word “honor” can be rendered “*to regard and esteem as glorious.*” That is the very same thing we see in the Psalms – this

call to mankind to regard and esteem God as glorious.

In the second Psalm we have this rebellion on a cosmic level described:

Psa 2:1-3 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? (2) The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, (3) "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!"

For this reason, because of man's hatred of the King, Peter tells us that Christ the King is the stumbling block over which they will fall into eternal destruction:

1Pe 2:6-8 For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." (7) This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who

disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone," (8) and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

Any parent with any wisdom at all will recognize this very sin in their children and work to teach them to be thankful. It is an ugly sight to see a child tearing open Christmas presents for example and then throwing a tantrum because he did not get what he wanted. By nature the sinner is *unthankful*.

Why then must we and should we come before the Lord with joyful songs, enter His gates with thanksgiving, Why should we serve Him with gladness? The Psalmist gives us the fundamental reasons:

Psa 100:3 Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We

are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

There is differing opinion as to whether this Psalm is directed just to the nation of Israel, the Old Testament covenant people of God, or to mankind in general. Certainly this imagery-

Psa 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

...brings to mind a large body of Israelites in procession coming to the Temple via the gates of Jerusalem. They in particular were His people and the sheep of His pasture, chosen from among all the nations and this for nothing at all in themselves.

But surely this call to worship and thanksgiving is extended to Christ's people, to the church. Of the body of Christ the same is very true-

Psa 100:3 Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has

made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

He has made us. We have been born again, and it is HIS doing. *We have not done this ourselves.* The only reason that we are His people and the sheep of His pasture is because of this:

Eph 2:1-6 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, (2) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (3) Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with

Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Know that HE is God. Who we are in Christ, what we have now in Christ, is all from the Lord. Let's repeat it – *and not we ourselves*.

Consider this in the light of Arminian theology which maintains that man contributes to His salvation via his so-called free will -

Eph 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; (9) not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Paul is saying here the very same thing as the Psalmist – *It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves*. No room for man to boast.

We also see more reason here to give thanks to the Lord –

Psa 100:4-5 Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. (5) For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.

For the Lord is good.

His lovingkindness is everlasting

His faithfulness is to all generations

The Lord is *good*. Think carefully about that. *Good*. All He is and everything He does is *good*. There is no evil in the Lord. Nothing in Him is bad. His love, His mercy, His justice, His bringing His people to heaven, His casting the wicked into an eternal hell – everything in Him is *good*. And He will never, ever change. His lovingkindness is *everlasting*. He will remain faithful to us forever and ever. Therefore:

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with

praise, Give thanks to Him, bless His name."

Bless His *name*. Bless everything that the Lord is. Because it is all entirely, *good*.

Once again, consider man in sin. What does he do? What is his natural response to God? He curses God. He criticizes God. He questions God and accuses God of injustice. He blames God for the evil in the world. The seriousness of all this sin is evidenced in the 73rd Psalm-

Psa 73:1-3 A Psalm of Asaph. Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart! (2) But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped. (3) For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psa 73:15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.

He tells how he finally came to his senses. He considered the "end" of the wicked. That God will deal with them in perfect justice. Because He is good.

Even the Creation Groans

Now, there is one more aspect to this Psalm which we dare not miss. And that is – *it is a picture of the new creation when all the earth will make a loud shout to Yahweh and serve Him with gladness*. Listen once more to Psalm 98-

Psa 98:7-9 Let the sea roar and all it contains, The world and those who dwell in it. (8) Let the rivers clap their hands, Let the mountains sing together for joy (9) Before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness And the peoples with equity.

When is this going to happen? The will all the world, and even the creation, "sing together for joy"? It is when the Lord comes to judge the world with righteousness.

Right now the creation is fallen. When man fell, the creation fell. Now there are briars and thorns, stinging insects and all kinds of things that hurt and even kill. There are storms and earthquakes and floods and disease and death. Things have gone quite wrong so that if we simply look at the world as it is, we see that it is not right. That it shouts to be fixed and restored. So that:

“...the sea will roar, the rivers will clap their hands, the mountains will sing together for joy” because the King is coming to put it all right.

Therefore:

Psa 100:1-5 A Psalm for Thanksgiving. Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. (2) Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. (3) Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. (4) Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with

praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. (5) For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.