

TWO GREAT CONFESSIONS OF FAITH  
(1 Kings 18:21-39, Matthew 16:5-19)

READER 1: Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long will you halt between two opinions? if the LORD is God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Then Elijah said unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

READER 2: Now when Jesus' disciples arrived at the other side of the lake, they had forgotten to take bread.

Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

When Jesus heard what they were saying, he said unto them, O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves, because you have brought no bread?

Do you not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets you took up?

Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up?

How is it that you do not understand that I was not speaking about bread, but that you should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

Then they understood that he was not telling them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teachings of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

READER 1: Elijah said, Give us two bullocks; and let the priests of Baal choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under it: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under it:

Call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answers by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

So they took the bullock, and dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

And at noon, Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is hunting, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping, and must be awakened.

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their custom with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that paid attention to their cries.

READER 2: When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do people say that I the Son of man am?

And they said, Some say that you are John the Baptist: some, *Elijah*; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

READER 1: And Elijah took twelve stones and built an altar in the name of the LORD. He made a trench about the altar, put the wood in order, cut the bullock in pieces, laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

And the water ran round about the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

And Elijah said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that you are God, and that I have done all these things at your word.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that you are the LORD God, and that you have turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces, and said,

BOTH: **The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.**

READER 2: Jesus said unto them, But whom do you say that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said,

BOTH: **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

BABEL & PENTECOST  
Genesis 11, Acts 2

Reader 1: Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.

And as people migrated from the east,

they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

And they said to one another,

[Both Readers:] “Come, let us make bricks,

and burn them thoroughly.”

Reader 1: And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar.

Then they said,

[Both Readers:] “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens,

and let us make a name for ourselves,

lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

*Reader 2: When the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples were all together in one place.*

*And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled  
the entire house where they were sitting.*

*And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.*

Reader 1: And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower,

which the children of man had built.

And the Lord said,

[Both Readers:] “Come, let us go down and there confuse their language,

so that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

*Reader 2: And the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other  
tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

*And at the sound of the wind and the tongues, the multitude came together, and they were  
bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.*

Reader 1: So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth,

And they left off building the city.

Therefore its name was called Babel,

because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth.

And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Reader 2: *And the people were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?"*

*But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:*

*"Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.*

*Hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*

*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,*

Both Readers: *"Brothers, what shall we do?"*

Reader 2: *And Peter said to them,*

*"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."*

HOW GREAT THOU ART

(Extracts from Genesis 1; John 1; Colossians 1:15-17;  
2 Peter 3:5b, 7, 13; Revelation 21:1-2, 23, 22:12:a, 16b, 20b)

READER 1: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

READER 2: And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And it was so.

READER 1: And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters he called Seas: and God saw that it was good.

READER 2: And God said, let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind: and it was so. And God saw that it was good.

READER 1: And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God saw that it was good.

STANZA 1

READER 2: And God created great whales, and every living creature which the waters brought forth after their kind, and every winged fowl after its kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

READER 1: And God made the beast of the earth after its kind, and cattle after their kind: and every thing that creeps upon the earth after its kind: and God saw that it was good.

READER 2: And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God saw everything he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

STANZA 2

READER 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

READER 2: Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible. All things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

STANZA 3

READER 1: By the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water. But the heavens and the earth, which now exist are reserved for fire in the day of judgment. But we, according to God's promise, look for new heavens and a new earth.

READER 2: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

READER 1: Behold I come quickly. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. Surely I come quickly.

BOTH: Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

**STANZA 4**

THE PRODIGAL SON (with hymns)  
Luke 15

Jesus spoke the following parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

“All My Life I Had a Longing” (sts. 1-2; st. 2: “Feeding on the husks around me”)

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’”

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” (#471 sts. 1, 3, 4, ref.; ref.: “I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms”)

or

“I’ve Wandered Far Away from God” (all sts.; st. 1: “I’ve wandered far away from God, now I’m coming home”)

And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” (#41 sts. 1-2; st. 2: “There is welcome for the sinner”)

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

“Amazing Grace” (#587 all stanzas; st. 1: “I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see”)

Satisfied

"Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ... will be filled" — Matthew 5:6 NTV

1. All my life I had a long - ing For a drink from  
 2. Feed - ing on the husks a - round me, Till my strength was  
 3. Poor I was, and sought for rich - es, Some - thing that would  
 4. Well of wa - ter, ev - er spring - ing, Bread of life so

some clear spring, That I hoped would quench the bum - ing  
 al - most gone, Longed my soul for some - thing bet - ter,  
 rich and free, Un - told wealth that I gath - ered round me  
 that I nev - er fail - ed,

Of the thirst: I felt with - in. Hal - le - lu - jah! I have  
 On - ly still to hun - ger on. On - ly mocked my soul's sad cry.  
 My Re - deem - er is to me.

found Him Whom my soul so long has craved! Je - sus

sat - is - fies my long - ings, Thro' His blood I now am saved.

WORDS: Clara T. Williams, 1858-1937; alt.  
 MUSIC: Ralph E. Hudson, 1863-1901

SATISFIED  
 8.7.8.7. with Refrain

"I will set out and go back to my father" — Luke 15:18 NTV

1. I've wan - dered far a - way from God, Now I'm com - ing home;  
 2. I've wast - ed man - y pre - cious years, Now I'm com - ing home;  
 3. I've tired of sin and stray - ing, Lord, Now I'm com - ing home;  
 4. My soul is sick, my heart is sore, Now I'm com - ing home;

The paths of sin too long I've trod, Lord, I'm com - ing home.  
 I now re - pent with bit - ter tears, Lord, I'm com - ing home.  
 I'll trust Thy love, be - lieve Thy word, Lord, I'm com - ing home.  
 My strength re - new, my hope re - store, Lord, I'm com - ing home.

Com - ing home, com - ing home, Nev - er more to roam,

O - pen wide Thine arms of love, Lord, I'm com - ing home.

WORDS: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921  
 MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921

COMING HOME  
 8.5.8.5. with Refrain



## The Choir in a Non-Singing Role

**Scripture Reading** Joel 2:27-32

Reader 2: You shall know that I am the Lord your God and there is none else.

Reader 1: And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Reader 2: And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;

Reader 1: your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

Reader 2: Even on the male and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Reader 1: And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth,  
blood and fire and columns of smoke.

Reader 2: The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood,  
before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

Reader 1: And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

*As soon as Reader 1 finishes, the members of the choir begin to whisper the word "Lord" at various speeds (not together), creating a hubbub by gradually increasing in volume and intensity, changing to "Alleluia" at the mid-point, then slowly fading away until there is silence. After a short period, the introduction to the following hymn (#228) should be played without announcement.*

ANTIPHONAL/RESPONSORIAL READING  
Psalm 148

Reader 1: Praise the Lord.

All: Praise the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

Women: Praise him, all his angels: praise him all his hosts.

Men: Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all you stars of light.

Reader 2: Praise him you heavens of heavens, and you waters that are above the heavens.

Choir: Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created.

All: He has also established them for ever and ever:

he has made a decree which shall not pass.

Reader 2: Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons, and all deeps:

Reader 1: Fire, and hail; snow, and vapors; stormy wind fulfilling his word:

Reader 2: Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:

Reader 1: Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

Men: Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:

Women: Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:

Choir: Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent;

His glory is above the earth and heaven.

Both Readers: He has exalted the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints;

Even the children of Israel, a people near unto him.

All: Praise the Lord.