

## *Praise God!!!*

100 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. <sup>3</sup> Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

*Praise God from Whom All blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen* (Doxology, AMEC) We Praise God for where the Lord has brought us from, while simultaneously giving compulsory “anticipatory thanks” for what lies ahead. For African American worship, thanksgiving and praise go hand-in-hand. Our text today is in the book of Psalms and psalms nurture our doxological repertoire. They demonstrate what is possible before God and in the Church. In particular, for Thanksgiving, the Psalms are helpful because there are many psalms of praise exhorting the people of God to give God the Praise that He deserves.

Throughout the United States, churches and families gather to express their appreciation to God for all that God has done. It is the time of year where worship is both easier for, and expected by, all who attend church services—the premise being, of course, that all of us have something for which we can be thankful for and thankful about. We All need to give God the Praise.

Within the African American faith community, Thanksgiving is both a holiday and an ongoing act that speaks of our intense passion and love for God who has, throughout our tumultuous journey in this country, brought us “A Mighty Long Way.” Thanksgiving allows us to gather as family and celebrate the many “marvelous acts” of God. As the Christian church gathers to celebrate Thanksgiving, it is a great time to reflect upon the suffering and challenges that have arisen throughout the year and how God has, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, enabled us not only to endure; but also to grow. HIV-Aids, Covid-19, Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Aging, Shortages, Governmental Change (Near and Far), Injustices near and far, Economic changes, Leadership Changes, Hardships, Mental Stressors, Shortcomings, Climate Change, Changes in the Family, the Church, and the Job. The Aging process – realizing that as we age, our body parts are under warranty. But through it all... suffering and challenges that have arisen throughout the years... Can I get a Witness that God has been mighty Good, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. God has made a way. Can I get a witness; O’ I’ve tried the rest

and now I've tried the Best. God has been Good Y'all. If you're able to open your eyes and lift your voice, you should take a moment to give God some Praise. Lift your voice and say "Lord, I just want to Thank You for being so Good to Me."

Historically... the Thanksgiving meal has evolved, and traditional favorites have settled in... When it began the meal did not feature sweet potato or coconut pies, macaroni and cheese, Smoked Turkey & Dressing, Savory Roast Beef, Collard Greens with the ever so present hint of smoked ham hocks. (O Bless His Name) ... Honey Baked Ham (*w/pineapple slices and brown sugar cascading on the side*), Sweet Tea / Fresh Squeezed Lemonade, etc. which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations. But through it all... God has been Mighty Good and quite frankly, He deserves our praise. Three things that will help us to Praise God are as follows:

### **1. Enter into His Gates with Thanksgiving:**

**Psalm 150** Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. <sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. <sup>3</sup> Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. <sup>4</sup> Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. <sup>5</sup> Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. <sup>6</sup> Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. **(Give God Praise because He is Worthy to be Praised!!!). Praise God.**

### **2. He causes the storms in our life to be still:**

**Psalm 107: 29-30.** He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. Has anybody had any storms in your life? **We may not understand it, but Romans 5:3-5 teaches us that** suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out **his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit**, whom he has given us. *"We may not understand it, but By and By, When the Morning Comes and All the Saints of God are gathered at home, we'll tell the story of how we've overcome. We will understand it better By and By."* The psalmist shows us how to respond by crying out to God in the midst of our pain... Telling God about it. (Hooping!!!) *It is believed that our ancestors went through such horrific pain coming off of the ships of slavery. Our people would have holy camp meetings, where they would share their troubles and cry out to God. There were so many lives lost, and people were depressed and oppressed. Sickness was across that land and our ancestors began to cry out to God.*

Sometimes the mother would endure so much pain that she would come to the camp meeting, and *she would tell the preacher to cry out to God*. Oftentimes the preacher would sing songs or Hoop... Something like this... *“Trouble in My Way, I Have to Cry Sometimes, Trouble in My Way, I Have to Cry Sometimes, I Lay Awake at Night, That’s Alright.... “Cause I know that JESUS will fix it; after a while.”* Job went through suffering. But he wanted to go to a place where the wicked shall cease from troubling and our weary soul be at rest. (Job 3:17-19) My God will supply all of our needs according to his riches in Glory. Trouble Don’t last always. Hallelujah, Praise God!!!

### **3. Make a Joyful Noise:**

*100 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.* I Praise Him because I saw the butterfly flying; I heard the birds chirping, I saw the trees swaying, I felt the wind blowing, and I saw the sun shining. Everything was giving thanks to God and Praise to His Holy Name because He deserves it. He’s Worthy to be Praised. You may be asking the question, “Why would one praise God?” Thank You – I’m so glad you asked. I Praise God because ...we have food on the table, clothes on our backs, and hopefully we are clothed in our right mind. We have a church to attend, worship and praise God. We have friends in whom we can fellowship with in the Lord. We have much for which to give God praise and thanksgiving. But how many of us know that every day may not feel like a praise party? Every now and then, we experience trouble and adversity in our lives. So you must reach beyond your feelings and understand that His ways are above our ways. I praise God. He is so good to us. He does not treat us as our sins deserve. (Psalms 103:10) I could have been dead, lying in my grave, but God made a way. I just believe He deserves our praise. Has God delivered you? Has He healed your body? Has he saved your sin sick soul? Don’t you know that He is worthy. Hallelujah, Praise Almighty God.

In closing, *rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thes. 5:16-18)* Maybe you feel like having a pity party and can testify in the words of Langston Hughes’s poem *“Mother to Son”*: *“life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.”* I wonder if you’ve taken the time to give God Praise, because He is Worthy!!! *“We Praise You God”* because you’ve never left nor forsaken us. *We Praise You God* for your wonderful works to humankind.” God has been good to us. God cares so much for us that He lifted us up out of the miry clay. He planted our feet on the rock to stay. *Praise God from Whom All blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen* (Doxology, AMEC, Hymn 593) In Jesus Name. Praise God!!!

I won't complain. I can't complain because God cares so much for me that he lifted me up out of the miry clay. He planted my feet on the rock to stay. That is the reason why I thank God and sing and shout because God came down and lifted me up! God delivers. God saves. God loves forever! Praise God!!!