

### **HOW GREAT THOU ART**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin;

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

### **+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +**

*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)*

#### **INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

#### **EXHORTATION**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**Congregation: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

#### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Congregation: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

### INTROIT

*Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the godly!  
I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up  
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.  
O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.  
O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.  
Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,  
and give thanks to his holy name.  
For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Congregation: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

### KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Congregation: **Amen.**

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

## TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

*Proverbs 31: 10-12, 25-31*

- <sup>10</sup> An excellent wife who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.
- <sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.
- <sup>12</sup> She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.
- <sup>25</sup> Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.
- <sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- <sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- <sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:
- <sup>29</sup> “Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.”
- <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- <sup>31</sup> Give her of the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the gates.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*1 Peter 2:2–10*

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 14:1–14*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

Congregation: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES’ CREED (spoken in unison)**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## **God, You’re So Good**

**Amazing love that welcomes me;  
The kindness of mercy;  
That bought with blood wholeheartedly;  
My soul undeserving.**

**God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
You're so good to me.**

**Behold the cross, age to age,  
And hour by hour;  
The dead are raised, the sinner saved;  
The work of Your power.**

God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
You're so good to me.

God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
You're so good to me.

I am blessed; I am called;  
I am healed; I am whole;  
I am saved in Jesus' name.  
Highly favored; anointed;  
Filled with Your pow'r  
For the glory of Jesus' name.

I am blessed; I am called;  
I am healed; I am whole;  
I am saved in Jesus' name.  
Highly favored; anointed;  
Filled with Your pow'r  
For the glory of Jesus' name.

And should this life bring suffering,  
Lord, I will remember  
What Calvary has bought for me,  
Both now and forever.

God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
You're so good to me.

God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
You're so good to me.

God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
God, You're so good;  
You're so good to me.

CCLI Song # 7105729  
Brett Younker | Brooke Ligertwood | Kristian Stanfill | Scott Ligertwood  
© SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia | sixsteps Music | worshiptogether.com songs  
For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com  
CCLI License # 38370

## **MOTHER'S DAY SERMON**

Being a Mother is tough. It's not for the faint of heart. It's the greatest and most rewarding privilege there is. But it's still difficult. Today God's message is going to give all of you- whether you are a mother or not- some encouragement. Today you are going to be receiving a Mother's Day card from God. If God sent you a card from heaven, what would it say? If God decided to speak directly to every mother in the world, what are the two or three things He would be sure to mention? I think He would start by saying: you don't have to be perfect to be a mother.

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT TO BE A MOTHER.** On the average:

- Two million documents are lost each year by the IRS.
- 22,000 checks are deducted from the wrong bank account every hour.
- 18,322 pieces of mail are mishandled by the Post Office each and every hour.
- 107 incorrect medical procedures will be performed by the end of the day today.
- 315 entries in Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language will turn out to be misspelled.

Nothing in this world is perfect. And that includes being a mother. Having said that the greatest power on earth is this: A MOTHER'S LOVE.

Mother Teresa said **"the poorest of the poor are those who feel they are unloved."**

A mother's love is the most powerful force on earth. It can cover a multitude of wrongs.

I have always found it difficult to know how to strike the right balance on Mother's Day. For some it brings to mind difficult times. It is a reminder of the loss of their mother. For others it brings back memories of mothering that are painful. For some biological motherhood wasn't possible. For some the death of a child remains overwhelming.

There are 79,400,000 websites on the google that have to do with advising women on how to be a good mother.

- 3 Ways to Be a Good Mother,
- 8 Ways to Be a Good Mother. Instead of a Perfect One.
- How You Can Be a Perfect Mother with 9 Simple Tips
- 10 Tips on Being a Good Mother
- 11 Traits that Make You a Good Mother
- 15 Signs of Being a good mother
- 21 Ways to Enjoy Being a mother

Amazon.com lists over 50,000 books about Mothers. Facebook has over 113,000,000 pages about mothers. And of course, Instagram, Myspace and Snap-chat get bombarded on this day with mother day messages. This is the day Hallmark lives for.

While motherhood brings with it all manner of stumbling blocks, pitfalls and broken dreams, it is still the purest love our world will ever know. In spite of all the messy diapers, soiled wallpaper and spoiled plans, the love of a mother remains a beautiful thing. Motherhood is a natural part of God's creative plan to bring love and caring into this world. Motherhood is God's plan.

G.K. Chesterton asked: **"Can anyone tell me two things more vital to the human race than these; what man will marry what woman and what will be the first things they teach their children."** What a child learns on their mother's knee goes with them throughout their lives.

Some of you have children that are long grown up. But you never stop being a mother. Every mother lives her life for another. Those of you who are mothers- for the love of having a child- have experienced the pain of labor. For the love of your child, you massively reduced your social life. For the love of your child, you structured your entire day around their needs and activities. Every mother lives her life for another.

William Busch said: **"To become a mother is not so difficult; on the other hand, being a mother is very much so!"**

We are not all mothers and there are many other forms of self-sacrifice. We are all called- in the name of Christ- to give up ourselves in service to others. But mothers are an inspiration to the rest of us. Every mother exists not for her own benefit but for the benefit of her children.

Is that not also the picture of the Christ? Sacrificial love.

This is a lesson that we all need to learn. We need to learn more and more to exist not for our own benefit but for the benefit of others. As parents, we do things we don't want to, but we do them anyway because we love our child. That's a God given calling for all of us.

In Hebrew the word for **"compassion"** comes from the root word for, **"womb."** The picture is of a birthing. Something new is being born. If we apply this to the human experience, it means that our compassionate acts always give the other person another chance. We don't hold past failures against them. We offer a "fresh start."

We want this from others. Are we willing to give it to them? Such compassion will dramatically change the way we relate to each other. Sacrificial love changes people.

Kahlil Gibran remarked, **"We can forget those with whom we have laughed, but we can never forget those with whom we have cried."** Sacrificial love feels what the other feels, hurts where the other hurts and cries where the other cries.

Even if you aren't a Mother, maybe you know of someone who could use some words of encouragement today. Discouragement can come at any time. It can come:

- When your kids act up and do the same silly things you've told them over and over again not to do.
- When you can't get a break from their sicknesses or accidents or both.
- When you feel an emotional distance growing between you and them.
- When you feel like your husband isn't helping you as much as he should.
- When others look down on you because of the way you choose to parent.

Discouragement can be a very real force in a Mother's life. When that discouragement comes and tries to steal your joy, remember that God is with you. He will help you with what He has called you to do. When it comes to children adults must be encouragers.

A study was done by psychologist Dr. Henry H. Goddard, on energy levels in children. He found that when tired children are given a word of praise or encouragement, they show an immediate upward surge of new energy. When children are criticized and discouraged their physical energy take a sudden nose-dive.

People are always more encouraged when we share how God's grace can help them in their weakness. Positive outweighs negative every time.

Listen to what God says in Isaiah 41:10. **"So do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."**

God is here and will help you to be the Mother- or if you are not a mother- the person- He's called you to be. God is a God of encouragement in the midst of discouragement.

But not only must you deal with discouragement. There is also frustration. The best of parents can become frustrated with their children. Children, at times, can be difficult to get along with.

A little boy was sitting on his front steps with his face cradled in his hands, looking forlorn. His dad came home just then and asked him what was wrong. The little boy looked up and said, **"Well, just between us, Dad, I'm having trouble getting along with your wife."**

Some mothers get upset by the smallest of things.

- "Are you telling me that you used my eyeliner to draw a picture on the wall?"
- "You did what to the cat?"
- "Why did you try and cut your own hair?"
- "Son, you know you can't wear the same underwear for a week!"

When you get upset, frustrated, or are tempted to get angry remember Ephesians 4:26-27: **"In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold."**

Emotions that are out of control can give Satan an opportunity to drive a wedge in your family relationships. They can create emotional scars that can take a long time to heal. Frustration, disappointment, and discouragement are all at times the normal response to a given situation but we must let God help us control those emotions instead of allowing them to control us.

If you lose control of yourself with your kids, for something they do wrong, do you wait for them to apologize to you or do you set the example and go to them?

Sometimes it's hard to know what to do. So many decisions need to be made. Important, life-changing and life-altering decisions. Questions about our children's education, our children's moral issues, health concerns, paying for college, when they should start dating and all other kinds of things. Things as simple as, "How can I get my kids to go through one day without fighting?" Or things as crucial as, "How can I help my kids understand that God loves them even when life is hard."

Always remember, God will give you the wisdom you need to be the best you can be. James 1:5 reads. **"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."**

Mothering is tiring. Parenting is tiring. Just plain living the Christian life is tiring. Does what we do make any difference at all? Are we even making a contribution to the betterment of this world?

Is. 40:29-31 reads: **“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”**

Our God wants to give you the strength to do all that you need to do. So, when your strength is failing, and there’s nobody around to give you a break, rely on our all-powerful God who will give you the strength to carry on.

Lastly, what does God have to say to us when we are worried? Mothers tend to worry because they care so much about their kids. They laugh when their kids laugh. They cry when their kids cry. They hurt when their kids fail. They rejoice when their kids’ triumph. Moms want their kids to have the best and be the best.

But sometimes Moms worry when things don’t go as planned. Sometimes Moms worry when they see problems and pain coming for their children. Worry comes when things seem like they’re out of our control and going badly.

But remember: you don’t have to be the perfect Mom for your kids to turn out okay. You can and will make mistakes. Trying to be the perfect Mom isn’t a realistic goal. But what you can be is the Mom that God’s enabled you to be. Don’t compare yourself with your neighbor. Don’t compare yourself with someone you saw on TV or someone you read about in a book. Be the Mom God’s created you to be. Do your best, and leave the results up to Him. And when worry comes, remember Philippians 4:6-7: **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

When you’re worried, go to God who will calm your heart and give you peace. We can go to Him when we feel discouraged, when we feel angry, when we need wisdom, when we feel alone, when we feel tired and when we feel worried. Being a Mother is a high calling. God will help you as you seek to love your children into adulthood. God is here for you! God is with us and will help us with life if we’ll simply have faith. Amen!

## **TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** As newborn infants who long for the pure spiritual milk, so let us come before the Lord seeking His mercy with confidence that His grace will be sufficient for all our needs.

**Pastor:** Almighty Father, everlasting God, Your Son has revealed You to us as a merciful Lord. Give to us Your Holy Spirit, that we may believe in Him whom You have sent and do the greater works He has told us we will do in His name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord God, You have promised to build up Your Church to be a holy priesthood, that Your people might offer the spiritual sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving acceptable to You. Bless Your Church and bring all congregations back together again. Bless all pastors who proclaim Christ to us. Bless all Church workers and those preparing for full-time church vocations, that Your Church may be supplied with faithful leaders and servants of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Holy God, Your power brought all things into being and still You preserve what You have made. Bless our president, the Congress of these United States, our governor, and all elected and appointed civil servants so that they may honor You and Your purpose, establishing order and justice, encouraging virtue and protecting all life. Give wisdom and moderation to them in their leadership for the well-being of the nation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** O merciful Father, You have compassion upon the sick and those in need and have promised not to ignore them in their afflictions. Turn back the pandemic across the globe, and give us relief. Bless the sick with healing, those who suffer with strength and patience, and the dying with peace. Hear us on behalf of those who have requested our prayers (especially...). Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation:** **hear our prayer.**



Pastor: Gracious God, You have established the home and blessed those who show us Your love. Bless all mothers and the children in their care. Bless all families and make their homes places of blessing and love, where Your Word is spoken, forgiveness reigns and love is displayed. Give us good examples to inspire youth to all that is good and pure, and to seek after these things. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You have given us the wisdom of faith that through the Spirit we might know Your Son to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all those who teach and all who learn, that the goal of our knowledge may be to know Christ and to make Him known. Do not let Your Word be bound, but let it have free course among us. Preserve those in isolation from idleness, and instead let our minds be renewed in Scripture and prayer. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We praise You, God, for Your goodness in hearing the prayers of Your people and granting us confidence to approach Your throne of mercy. Hear us now in the name of and for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, both now and forevermore.

**Congregation: Amen!**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)**

**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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### **His Eye Is on the Sparrow**

**Why should I feel discourage? Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.**

**“Let not your heart be troubled,” His tender words I hear;  
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubt and fear.  
Though by the path He leadeth but one step I may see:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.**

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw still closer to Him; from care He sets me free:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Pastor: Keith Johnson  
Pianist: Sue Longsdorf  
Vocalist: Deanna Lawings  
Readers: Carol Johnson, Debra Kneram  
Technology Assistant: Matthew Johnson

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.