

Cain and Abel

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[0 : 0 0] Good morning everyone, it's a pleasure to be with you here today. I have the privilege of joining with you in worship. And so let us continue the public worship of God by singing to his praise, Psalm 100. Psalm 100, a great psalm of praise to our living God. All the people left on earth who dwell, sing to the Lord with a cheerful voice, and serve with martyrs praise forth tell, come ye before him and rejoice. Know that the Lord is God indeed, without our aid he did us make, we are his flock, he doth his feed, and for his sheep he doth his take. We shall sing the whole of this psalm, Psalm 100, a great psalm of praise.

All the people that joiners who dwell, sing to the Lord with cheer, full of wise, and serve with merciless praise for tell. Come ye before him and rejoice. Know that the Lord is God indeed, with our children he doth his feed, and for his sheep he doth his feed.

O wake, dear, in his gates with grace, approach with joy, his courts unto this Lord, God bless his name always. O God bless his name always. O God is his team, he so to do.

His mercy is never should, His truth that all time perfectly stood, Christ and shall draw me to Egypt Let's all come before God.

Lord our Father, we thank you once more that we can come into your presence to praise your holy and your precious name. We thank you that as we come to you we know that you are perfect in every way that Lord you are beyond our understanding you know the end from the beginning you created all things you sustain all things Lord you yourself have no beginning and no end and that Lord you know everything at all times and in all places and you are working out all things to your glory.

[4 : 0 4] And we praise you for that for we know that we live in a sinful world where fallen men are in rebellion against you and they do wicked things and resist your will.

But we thank you Lord that by your mercy you have called us into this place today and that you have given us a gospel the gospel of mercy and of free days that calls lost sinners into your eternal kingdom.

We thank you Lord that in our Lord Jesus Christ you have provided a perfect man one who was able to fulfill the law on our behalf and one who was able to bear the punishment that was due to sin because he was not only a perfect man but also perfect and holy God two natures in one person.

And we thank you Lord our God that we are able to come in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ today because he has spilt his blood upon the cross.

And we thank you that we can come into your presence because he is perfect and he is able like the high priest to sympathise Lord with sinners because he was tempted in every way.

[5 : 2 3] And we thank you Lord that he was able to resist sin. And Lord we pray that this day as we come into your presence we would be aware of the sin that holds us back and puts barriers between ourselves and you.

And that Lord once again we would be willing to repent of it. and that Lord you give us the grace to put sin to death. And that Lord we might live for righteousness.

We thank you that Jesus is that perfect template. He was righteous and perfect in every way and holy beyond measure. We thank you Lord that as we live in this world we have your spirit who fills each and every believer who resides within.

And we marvel Lord that you would indeed come to dwell by your spirit within us. We pray Lord God that as we live in this world we might be better at living according to your word and living for your glory.

That Lord we might honour and praise your name. We pray Lord for the congregation here that you would bless them and strengthen each and every one that those who are in Christ would grow in grace and be sanctified.

[6 : 42] They would be built up and strengthened in their faith. And we pray Lord that those who are outside of Christ would hear the call of the gospel today and would respond in repentance and faith.

Enable us Lord as we worship to truly worship you in spirit and in truth to the praise of your glorious name. Amen. Our next item of praise is Psalm 67.

Psalm 67 Lord bless and pity us shine on us with thy face that the earth thy way and nations all may know thy saving grace. Let people praise thee Lord let people all be praised and let the nations be glad in songs their voices raised.

It's a great psalm a great missionary psalm because it's calling upon all nations all peoples everywhere and all different languages across the world to praise the name of our great and holy God.

So let us join in in that great sound of praise that is going up on this day to God's name. Lord bless and pity us shine on us where life is that the earth my way and nations all may know thy saving grace.

[8 : 25] Let people praise thee Lord O let the nations be glad in songs their voices raise thou thou canst leave thee the judge on earth road nations all let people praise thee Lord let them praise thee both great and small the earth the fruit shall yield of God shall bless in his hand

God shall us bless men shall him fear and to earth the most end we can now turn to God's word and read from Genesis chapter four Genesis four we shall read the whole chapter chapter and Adam knew Eve his wife and she conceived and there came and said I have gotten a man from the Lord and she again bare his brother Abel and Abel was the keeper of sheep but Cain was the tiller of the ground and in process of time it came to pass that Cain brought to the fruit of the ground and offering unto the

Lord and Abel he also and the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect and Cain was very rough and his countenance fell and the Lord said unto Cain why art thou rough and why is thy countenance fallen if thou doest well shall thou not be accepted and if thou doest not well sin lieth at the door and unto thee and Cain talked with Abel his brother and it came to pass when they were in the field that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him and the Lord said unto Cain where is Abel thy brother and he said I do not am I my brother's keeper and he said what hast thou!

done the voice of thy brother's blood cried unto me from the ground mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand when I tell us the ground it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength a fugitive and a vagabond shall there be in the earth and Cain said unto the Lord my punishment is greater than I can bear behold thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth and from my face shall!

And the Lord said unto him therefore whosoever slayeth Cain vengeance shall be taken on him seven fold And the Lord set a mark upon Cain lest any finding him should kill him And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden And Cain knew his wife and she conceived and bare Enoch And he built into the city and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch And unto Enoch was born Eras And Eras begat Mebuchael and Methusael and Methusael begat Lamech And Lamech took unto him two wives The name of the one was Ada and the name of the other Zillah And Ada bore Jabal He was the father of such as dwell in tents and Zillah she also bare

[13 : 20] Tubal Cain an instructor of every artificer and brass and iron and the sister of Tubal Cain was Neymar And Lamech said unto his wives Ada and Zillah hear my voice He said Lamech harken unto my speech for I have slain a man to my wounding and a young man to my heart If Cain shall be avenged seven fold Lamech seven seven fold and Adam knew his wife again and she bare a son and called his name Seth for God said she hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel whom I have slain and to Seth to him also there was born a son and he called his name Enos then began men to call upon the name of the Lord and may God add his blessing to this reading of this word I just pray once again Lord our Father we thank you for the privilege of having your word we thank you

Lord that in it you reveal yourself and reveal your son we thank you Lord that you have indeed revealed yourself because if we did not have your word we would not know anything about you and Lord we praise you that because we have your word we can see who you are what you call us to do and how you call us to respond to your gospel we pray for your blessing upon your gospel this day across the face of the earth we thank you Lord that there are many congregations in the islands preaching your truth even at this moment and we pray that as they meet Lord God that you would be pleased to bless the preaching of your word with your spirit for we know that if your spirit does not bless the world has no power for the words of man there is nothing but we thank you that we have a knowledge of days of revival in the past when suddenly you came down amongst your people and you blessed them mightily and power as your spirit moved in the midst of the communities around here and beyond and we pray once again

Lord God that you would be pleased to bless the preaching of your word that you would restore your church once again and Lord we would not see a generation lack of hearing the word of truth and responding to it we pray Father for your blessing upon those who rule over us we thank you that we live in a country where there is a rule of law and that Lord people administer justice and Lord we thank you that we indeed have the opportunity to choose those who rule over us we pray Lord God that you would bless those who serve in positions of power that Lord they would be humbled at the thought of the responsibilities they have and the lack of knowledge and understanding that they have and we pray Lord that you might enable them to look to you and to look to your words and to understand Lord

God your desire and your revealed will for how we should live and Father we pray at this time for places in the world where there is much fighting we remember Ukraine once again and we ask Lord that you might bring that war to an end and Lord we marvel once more at how the evil desires of men can bring such destruction Lord we pray that you would intervene we thank you Lord that your gospel is being preached in that country and the churches are packed as people seek to understand what is going on and how there is so much evil in this world and we pray Lord that as they hear the gospel of free grace they would respond and possess trust in the living Christ we pray too Lord for your church in Russia where people faithfully preach the truth and

Lord we ask that they would continue to do so and that Lord you may yet bring about a great turning of the Russian people to serve you we remember too Gaza and Israel at this time we pray!

[17 : 49] of life and a property would cease and that there might be a measure of peace but we pray above all things Lord that you would do a great work in the Middle East to bring Muslim and Jew to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that they might bury old hatred and that Lord they might be able to come together to worship you in spirit and in truth as they worship as brothers in Christ rather than seeking to kill each other as enemies and Father we thank you that you have indeed been working in the Middle East in places such as Iran where huge numbers have been coming to Christ in the midst of an Islamic state we pray Lord that you continue to bless the preaching of your word there we pray that the spread of the gospel would continue and that Father you would glorify your name as your church grows and

Lord we pray that in the nations of the west where once Lord you blessed them with the! in a great and a powerful way that there is an emptiness in the ideologies of the world and indeed an evil within them and Lord we all need to repent of evil and to trust in Christ to make people once more pick up your word and read it and we thank you Lord God that where they lie gathering dust you would put it in the hearts of men and women to pick up your word to open it to read it and be transformed by it Lord we pray that you would forget each and every one within this building who has a Bible at home and does not read it and we pray

Lord that each and every one of us would read it each day and would seek Lord to know your will and Lord that you would be pleased to open up your truth and reveal it to us all in Jesus name Amen Our next item of praise is Psalm 101 Psalm 101 Psalm 101 Psalm 101 Psalm 101 Psalm 101 Upon the faithful of the land

My life shall be the day May dwell with me He shall be said God walks in perfect way Through all decease He sees the work that is In my house shall I dwell God dwell And in my presence shall he Shall he not Reveal that life Attends Ye all the wicked

[23 : 30] Of the land Early destroyed Will I All wrong God said He took that job And worked in equity Now we're going to return and look at Cain and Abel in Genesis 4 but I just want to read a few verses from the beginning of Hebrews 11 in order to set the context for our sermon Hebrews 11 let's read from the beginning of the chapter and down to verse 4 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen for by it the elders obtained a good report through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear by faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain by which he obtained witness that he was righteous

God testifying of his gifts and by it he being dead he has spoken So we shall think in particular on that verses we work our way through the elements of chapter 4 today I'll just say that I personally read the New International Version so when I'm putting quotations they may be slightly different from what you have in the in the King James Version so I'll just ask that you bear with me as we look at God's word together we see in this introduction to chapter 11 it tells us first about Abel and that's interesting in itself in Hebrews when we're talking about the roll call of faith there's no mention in there of Adam and Adam as we know caused the fall and not only did he cause people to be ruined but he caused the ground itself to be cursed by God as the whole of creation felt the effects of the sin that Adam had introduced into the world and in Hebrews 11 we see

Abel being commended for his faith and in essence I think we have him first because he is there as a representative of men beyond Adam beyond the man who caused the whole of mankind to fall into sin and then Abel was a representative of those who must live by faith he was the first man who was persecuted for his sin as we see with Cain persecuting and killing him but in Hebrews 11 and 4 it tells us that Abel was able to offer a better sacrifice than Cain was and I want to ask the question today how was he able to do that and what was the impact of that upon Cain and upon Abel and upon indeed the very future of the world if we think back to the very fact of the fall of Adam and Eve both of them spent and the last thing they wanted to do was to be in God's presence so they hid from God's presence but God had to go out and call them to him and he pronounced judgment upon their sin and that sin was that judgment was to cast them out of the garden of Eden and also as a result of their sin they were told that they would die and yet here we have both Abel and Cain coming and giving offerings to the Lord so we can see that even though Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden of Eden

God did not totally abandon them and they will have left Eden and they'll have just set up home in whatever suitable place they would have found they would have created a simple camp for them to live as a family as they started having children and I think the very fact that we have Cain and Abel coming to the Lord with their offerings tells us that Adam and Eve actually created a family that was at worship they themselves did not continue in rebellion to God we know that after God gave the promises for the future to Adam and to Eve that Adam called his wife Eve meaning that she would be the mother of all living because God had promised that from her would become one who would crush the head of the serpent and Eve herself was able to look forward to that she said

I have gotten a man from the Lord when Cain was born she was able to bring a man into the world and I think it's quite likely that she herself at that point thought that perhaps Cain was going to be the one who would resolve the mess that had been left behind by their sin and deal with it that may have been the case but like everyone else ever since Eve certainly did not have a perfect view of what was to come but we have there Adam and Eve living by faith and they must have been a family at worship and they must have said to their sons that it was necessary to come to the Lord and to worship him in the correct way and when God had been dealing with Adam and Eve's sin he himself had given them skins with which to clothe themselves he himself would have put an animal to death blood being shed that they themselves might have been clothed all pictures of how we need to be clothed in a righteous manner before God and while

[30 : 29] Cain and Abel were growing up Adam and Abel had been teaching them about what they themselves had done about the consequences of sin but they would be teaching them about God's mercy and pointing them towards God and saying go to God with your sacrifices with your offerings and like us you will find that he is a merciful God so right behind that great tragedy of sin there is a wonderful story too of Cain of Adam and Eve ensuring that their sons are taught about the living God and they learn about the way of coming to God's presence now we are told in Hebrews 11 and 4 that by faith Abel offered a better sacrifice than Cain did and we see in verse 3 of Genesis 4 it simply says in the course of time

Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord he did not bring the first fruits it was just some of the fruits nor did he bring the best of what he was cultivating to bring into God's presence this was the attitude of somebody who was thinking to himself well I'll have the best for myself and God can get a little bit on the side if that's what he must have no sense there of everything that was coming into Cain's hand was in fact coming from the living God and then in contrast we see that Abel brought in fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock he was looking and in that situation he was giving the best that he had to God he was giving God the firstborn that came out of his flock and he was giving them those animals that were fat and in that way he was fulfilling the very essence of faith as told us in Hebrews 11 and verse 1 of being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see because he had his eye upon

God as he came into God's presence and we see between these two men quite different ways in which they presented their outward offerings and those outward offerings showed the inner attitudes of the hearts of Cain and Abel and the result of that was that Abel was commended as being righteous in God's presence but Cain was not God spoke well of his offerings or as it has it in the King James Version God testifying of his offerings it's like one giving witness in a court speaking of Abel's offerings so if we imagine Abel in the court of God and God testifying on his behalf saying that you have come to me in the right way we can say that Abel was therefore standing rightly correctly before God Abel was righteous before God he himself was commended as righteous and it's worth asking ourselves in what way did God actually do that how did he testify as to the righteous way in which

Abel had offered his own offerings it is possible that he spoke directly to him but the Bible doesn't specifically say that to us I think we have some really good examples elsewhere in scripture where God demonstrated quite clearly how he appreciated and accepted sacrifices if we think of a lighter on Mount Carmel with the priest of Baal telling him if your God will set fire to your sacrifice and consume it then we'll all worship Baal and if my God will consume my offering with fire then come and worship the living God and as we know the false prophets of Baal spent the whole day in trying to get Baal to consume their offering and nothing happened but Elijah called on

God and God sent fire down from heaven and it burnt up the offering and showing that his favour was with Elijah and again when Solomon dedicated the temple we have a wonderful recording of Solomon's prayer and then it tells us in 2nd Chronicles chapter 7 that when Solomon ended his prayer God came down with fire from heaven and consumed the offering that was on the altar and I think it's highly likely that in the case of Abel this is what happened as well the two men came to God with their offerings Cain came with his and nothing happened Abel came with his and fire came down from heaven consumed the offering and in that way God spoke to both Cain and Abel as to the right way of coming with your offering into his presence and so in commending Abel he was also implicitly saying to

[36 : 18] Cain you need to act like Abel there was a simple response that Cain could have made he could have said okay I'll do the same as Abel and get my heart right before God but instead God's word tells us he became very angry and he cultivated that anger within his heart and then we see what Cain's response is he said to Abel let's go to the field saying to Abel come along with me and give me a hand in the field and we can work together when all the time he was acting really deceitfully there's a wonderful proverb to illustrate this proverbs 26 and 24 a malicious man disguises himself with his lips but in his heart he harbors deceit and that is exactly what Cain was doing that day he was disguising what he wanted to do with his words but in his heart he had already planned to kill his brother so we see

Abel going out to the field to his brother and he willingly went to work for Cain the word here tells us that Abel was the one who was looking after the livestock and yet he was happy to go out into the field to help his brother and as we think of the curse upon the land that would be bringing up thorns and thistles Abel was happy to try and ameliorate the effects of that curse upon the land to help his brother in the toil of working the land and what did his brother do in response he killed Abel Abel was killed while he was in close contact with the ground that was cursed while he himself was trying to deal with the curse and the result of that was that Cain ended up being cast completely out of the manifest presence of God he was sent away from the area beyond Eden where the family had been living he wandered even further east and that in the Bible always gives us an indication as you travel east of travelling away from the presence of God and from wanting to be with

God and all of that came about because of the enmity he had in his heart and there was no reason for what he did other than the fact that he had hatred in his heart towards righteousness righteousness it wasn't a difficult thing that he was being asked to do but God was effectively saying to him I want you to be in a righteous manner like your brother and he had an enmity for his brother because he was righteous and he hated the fact that God accepted him because he was righteous and as so often is the case with sin he thought he could deal with that problem by killing the righteous man doing away with what was good and hiding it he simply didn't have to look at it any longer he cut short his brother's life in an effort to deal with his own sin being shown up rather than to deal with his own sin directly the very name Abel gives us a sense of the shortness of his life that the word Abel means breath or vanity and elsewhere in scripture we know that Solomon talks about vanity and our life just being like that our life is just a breath and so many people's lives in essence are lived in vain because they achieve nothing or they achieve something in worldly terms for a time and then ultimately they are gone and the scripture says the place remembers them no more

Cain thought he could deal with his own problems by killing his brother rather than dealing with sin within himself I think it's important here too that we remember and recognise the devil's input in all of this Jesus said in John 8 and 44 that the devil was a murderer from the beginning he knew that if Adam and Eve sinned they would die and certainly the day they sinned they spiritually died that day and he wanted mankind to die out he was a deceiver so he deceived Eve first of all he brought Adam into sin and now we have him deceiving Cain in terms of making Cain think only I kill my brother child of death with the problem it demonstrates the power that the devil has over mankind and it also demonstrates to us that he wanted to exterminate that line of faith that was being promised that had been promised by God to Adam and Eve the day they sinned and if he could kill out

Abel who was a righteous man he was thinking to himself this is the way I can stop my ultimate destiny from happening he wanted that line of faith to extinguish Abel was put to death and he was the first person in the whole of history to die that we have recorded in God's word here and yet the wonderful thing from our verse in Hebrews is that by faith Abel still speaks Cain wanted to silence Abel but what did God say to Cain your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground Abel a quiet guy going about his business was put to death by his brother his brother thinking he can silence him but here we have his very blood crying out to God from the ground I can only imagine what that must have done to Adam and Eve in front of the very eyes they had evidence of what death truly meant and their young son was taken away in an instant they would have been absolutely devastated by that but within scripture there is no mention whatsoever of their response to that why would that be the case simply death has never been seen before and the focus here in the chapter is upon the consequences of

[43 : 17] Adam and Eve's sin of death coming into the world and being fully manifest within it and therefore there is no need to tell us about Adam and Eve's own reaction and the reality is that no matter how devastated Abel's parents are the offense to God in all of this was far more serious the death of an innocent is always more serious to God than it is even to the parents that is not to diminish the anguish of parents who lose children but it magnifies and highlights the value that God puts on an individual life because every individual is created in the image of God and when Cain struck by Abel he was striking at the very image of God and wanted God's image removed from his life sin is an infinite offense that can only truly be comprehended by an infinite God he can comprehend it and all its terrible consequences and yet that is not the end we can see a second angle to

Abel by faith still speaking to us here today Jesus when he was preaching his sermon of seven woes the Pharisees in Matthew 23 spoke of the blood of righteous Abel Abel himself was righteous by Christ's righteousness he was looking forward to that promised person who was going to deal that blow to the serpent who was going to crush his head and as we started reading in Hebrews 11 we had the righteousness of Abel mentioned but just a couple of verses later it speaks of Noah who became the heir of righteousness that comes by faith because in holy fear he built an ark to save his family righteousness is a theme that runs right through scripture the book of Romans Paul writes and details quite clearly to the Jews that they could not become righteous by keeping the law he says rather through the law we become conscious of sin and now our righteousness from God has been revealed a righteousness which comes by faith in Jesus

Christ to all who believe it's important for each and every individual to have a righteousness that can stand before God's countenance and the only one that can do that is Christ's righteousness the problem for many of us is that we want our own self righteousness to commend ourselves to God but that always falls short of God's standard for here we have righteous Abel commended by Christ being presented and lifted up before Christ's listeners as someone to emulate and I think in the whole life of Abel and the whole account that we have of him here what we actually have is Abel acting as a picture of Christ or a type of Christ within scripture because Abel being a man who was caring for the flocks was a shepherd he was someone who was willing to be a servant his brother asked him to go to the field and he was happy to go and serve his brother and although we know that because he was making offerings to God

Abel recognised his own sinfulness yet in this passage we don't have any specific sins recorded against Abel because there's that picture of him just pointing us to Christ pointing us to the one without sin Abel fulfilled the demands of God by presenting a proper sacrifice before God and we see like Christ Abel was slain he was put to death outside the camp away from where his people were but he was done so in the place of the curse in the very ground that was cursed and Abel's blood that was shed was noticed by God and spoken of by God and just as many centuries later Christ's blood was seen quite clearly when Christ was on the cross but we know also from the book of Hebrews Hebrews 12 and 24 that the blood of Christ speaks a better word than that of the blood of

Abel Abel's blood cried out for justice Abel had been cut down he'd been murdered and the result of that was that Cain was banished from God's presence forevermore Abel's blood cries out for justice it cries out for vengeance but the blood of Jesus cries out for forgiveness it cries out for mercy Christ shed his blood upon the cross that each and everyone who calls upon his name might be saved so that everyone who's within this building today might be saved if like Abel they will repent of their sins and come into God's presence in the way that God has commanded which is by coming by the blood of Christ and by Christ's offering upon the cross so Abel's blood is calling out for justice but Christ's blood calls out for forgiveness pain was banished from God's presence but the spilling of

[49 : 18] Christ's blood is a message to each and every one of us that sinners are brought close by that spilled blood and we no longer need to stand afar off from God each and every one of us can come into his presence and we come by the blood of the living Christ so as we think upon these things let us reflect throughout this day upon the life of Abel one who was a picture for us of Christ in the Old Testament one who was willing to come to God in the way that God had said and one who was willing to serve God and to worship him with all of his heart and I pray that each and every one of us would have that same righteousness that Abel had and have that same heart that Abel had that we too might be acceptable to God let us pray Lord our

Father we thank you once more for your word we thank you that in it you revealed so much to us we thank you Lord that you did not cast off Adam and you that Lord even though you removed them from eating you still came to them and you preserved them and that Lord you enabled them to transmit your gospel your promises to their children and we thank you Lord God that Abel could see those promises he could see Christ in the far distance and he was able to offer a sacrifice that was acceptable we thank you Lord that you have provided for us that perfect sacrifice in the Lord Jesus Christ the one who has fulfilled all the demands of the Lord that Adam and Eve failed to meet and has paid the price of their sin and of our sin that Lord we might be here today in a spirit of worship and praise and Lord

God we pray that each and every one within this building and each and every one who meets in places of worship today may I would indeed come into your presence by the righteousness and the blood of Christ rather than in their own self righteousness Lord grant us repentance and faith we pray that we might trust in Christ and honour and glorify your name through him in Jesus name we pray amen our final psalm is psalm 145 and verses 17 to 21 psalm 145 17 to 21 the Lord is just in all his ways holy in his works all

God is made to all that call on him and truth that on him he will accomplish the desire of those that do him fear he also will deliver them and he that cry will hear the Lord preserves all who have love that not can them annoy but he all those that wicked are will utterly destroy my mouth the praises of the Lord to publish cease shall never let all flesh bless his holiness forever and forever!

! He will accomplish the desire that do call he will accomplish the desire of those that do him fear fear beyond the world he deliver then and he that cry will hear that your peace and song who hath love that can bear my eye but me oh those that we they are will us barely define my mind the places of the

[54 : 58] Lord to publish season heaven let all fresh breath his holy name for ever ever!

forever ever ever ever ever ever let's close it Father we thank you once more for the privilege of worshiping your precious name name enable us Lord to keep this your day holy and enable us Lord to look to Christ in it for all of our needs and may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all Amen