

Singing During the Worship Service

Psalm 22: 3

*But You are holy,
Enthroned in the praises of Israel.*

Do you see what David says here? “The LORD is enthroned in the praises.”

You could say it this way too: by singing, you build a throne on the earth, and the LORD can ‘sit’ on that throne.

When you keep this example in mind, you will also enjoy singing for God. You will know that you are doing something meaningful.

You are singing for the LORD. By your singing, you are helping build a throne.

You have probably seen the Queen or the Governor General read an important speech while seated on a throne in Parliament. Well, the LORD rules over the whole earth by means of the songs that God’s people sing for Him.

The way that David puts this is really beautiful, isn’t it?

You have noticed, of course, that not all the Psalms are the same.

There are some that make you a bit sad. These are songs that we sing to the LORD expressing our sorrow about the fact that we always seem to spoil everything.

But there are also the songs that make you happy. Then you sing about God’s faithfulness —the LORD has never abandoned anyone!

Yes, He *did* abandon His own son, the Lord Jesus. Jesus suffered for us completely on his own. Because of Christ’s suffering, we have an especially good reason to sing many songs to thank the LORD.

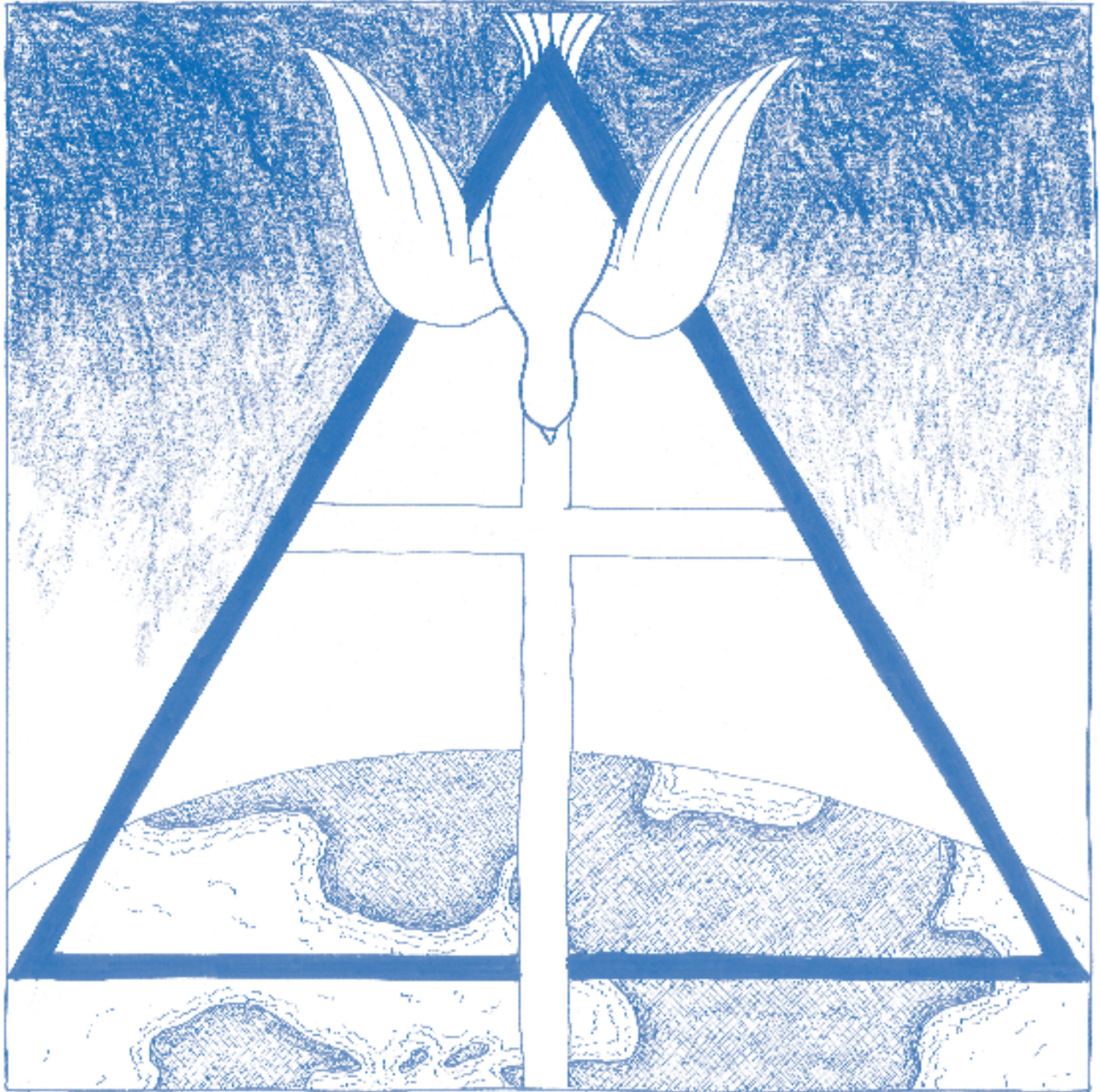
We also sing other kinds of Psalms. Some Psalms tell us what the LORD has done for His people throughout history. These are real and true stories. It is good to know them so that we do not forget God’s mighty deeds.

Other Psalms are actually prayers from the hearts of believers. So many things can stir the hearts and minds of God’s children, and there is a Psalm for almost every situation!

If you listen carefully to the organ music, you can hear the different moods of the Psalms.

*Do you know Psalm 147? This psalm mentions thankfulness,
history,
and praise to God.*

Take some time and look it up!



Confession of Faith

In the afternoon service, the law isn't read for a second time. Instead, you hear the confession of faith, usually the Apostles' Creed.

You probably know this Creed by heart as well.

That is actually what is intended because you should know what you believe!

All the matters that are mentioned in the confession of faith might still be a bit difficult to understand, but do you know what is so beautiful? If you recite the words in your heart each time the minister reads the Creed, you will discover new things.

One time you might give special thought to the Lord Jesus who was crucified.

The next time, your attention might be on the words "*descended into hell.*" And yet another time, you might be thinking about that "*catholic Christian church.*"

It is really important that you know a lot about our faith. If you don't know enough about it, you will start imagining things that are not true.

To help us remember what is contained in the complete gospel, some brothers, a long time ago, made a kind of summary.

This summary is about God the FATHER, God the SON, and God the HOLY SPIRIT.

No one is allowed to take anything away from that.

There is a lot more to learn. That is why we have to listen to the sermon. That is why you are taught at home, at school, and, later, at catechism class.

It's necessary to keep learning about the gospel, for the more you know about the LORD, the more you are awed by His greatness.

'Confessing' is saying together what we believe.

The confession is also nice for someone who enters our church for the first time. He will hear what is most important straightaway.

The confession has been used for many years. Your ancestors believed what it says. And the church *still* says the same thing. God will make sure that the confession never changes. He always remains the Same, even if people change!

Have a look at what the Catechism says. It is very helpful if you want to remember what is important. Do you understand Lord's Days 20 and 21?



Scripture Reading

After the Law or the confession has been read and the song in response has been sung, another very important thing happens — the Bible is read.

The Bible is the Word of God. God uses this means to speak to His people.

Sometimes we also say, “In the Bible, God reveals Himself — He shows who He is and gives Himself to us.”

The best way to get to know the LORD is to look at the Lord Jesus.

The whole Bible is about Him.

In the Old Testament, you can read of the many times that the LORD God promised to send His Son. He promised that the Lord Jesus would come to carry the punishment for sin.

How the people of Israel longed for the Lord Jesus!

The New Testament tells us that the Lord Jesus came.

He talked about and explained many things.

We should try our hardest to study these words of the Lord Jesus and to remember them.

Imagine if you knew everything there is to know about them!

But the Lord Jesus not only talked about many things; He also *did* much greater things. When you see Him at work, you see something of God’s Kingdom.

Wherever the Lord Jesus appeared, things became good.

Whoever was sick recovered when Jesus laid His hand upon him.

The Lord’s most important work, however, was that He died to pay the debt that we had with God.

We are sinners. Not so the Lord Jesus — He said *no* every time sin came near Him. He suffered and fought. Even the devil, God’s enemy, could not win against Him!

The Lord Jesus is the Conqueror. He rose from the grave. Just imagine that!

You can read about these tremendous things in the Bible.

And we have not even talked about the things that will happen in the future — the best is yet to come!

How can you and your friends help each other be inquisitive about what it says in the Bible?