



ENTER God's presence

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us –
- ² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
- ³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
- ⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
- ⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Psalm 67

Father God, we praise and thank you for your grace every day.
May our joy in your presence be evident to everyone so that
they too will be glad and sing for joy. May all peoples praise you.
Amen.



SHARE life together

Luther's explanation for the 3rd Article of the creed (last part):

**At the end of time the Spirit will raise me to life,
together with all who have died,
and will give me
and all others who believe in Christ eternal life.**

This is certainly true.

1. **Where have you seen God's power at work in your life this last week?**
2. **Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?**
3. **If you were to die tonight, are you confident that you will be raised into eternal life with God?**
 - a. **If not, how may you gain confidence?**
4. **Are your friends and family confident?**
 - a. **If not, how might you help them gain confidence?**

Week beginning:
Sunday 14th November 2021

Worship series:
ANCIENT CREED: LIVING FAITH
I believe in God who Lives
Through His People
(#6 in series)



VERSE for the week

**And whatever you do,
whether in word or
deed, do it all in the
name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God
the Father through him.**

Colossians 3:17



REMEMBER this week

**God for us.
God with us.
God in us.
God through us.
Be beautiful in Christ and
make the devil nervous.**

"Dress shabbily and they remember the dress; dress impeccably and they remember the woman." So said Coco Chanel, the founder of Chanel. What we wear creates an impression. How we dress matters. There's a whole movement designed to help people dress for success, be confident and to go out and shine in the world. God also wants us to shine in the world, to reflect his beauty and design wherever we are. God wants the inner transformation that he has brought to our lives in his Son Jesus to radiate out in all we do; for us to become fully alive with his presence. That's why he has given us his Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our personal wardrobe assistant, daily helping us to select the clothes that accentuate the beauty he has restored within, so that the nations may see the face of God and experience the joy of his blessing. That's what we will explore today as we declare, "I believe in God who lives through his people."



LISTEN attentively

Read Colossians 3:12-17

The Greek word for peace, is 'Iraynay'. From this we derive the English name Irene - peace. The Hebrew version, that is intended to be understood here, is 'shalom'. Shalom isn't merely an absence of war but rather a fullness and wholeness of being that is resilient in all circumstances. In war and in its absence.

5. ***What do you hear this scripture saying to you right now?***
6. ***What do Paul's words say about Jesus?***
7. ***Discuss verses 15-17***
 - a. ***Repeat those verses in your own words and in a manner that will make sense to someone today.***
 - b. ***It has been said that before a warrior can go to war, he/she must understand peace. That is, they must know what they are fighting for and know when to stop, not merely exhibit perpetual rage as warriors can. There is a war within all of us that lasts until we die. How goes the war within you?***
 - c. ***How can you let the peace of Christ rule in your heart?***
 - d. ***How can we encourage one another?***



GROW deeper

Read Psalm 67 again

A short course in necessary grammar. When my grandchildren ask me for an ice cream, the question is usually prefaced with, 'Can I?' My response is always, 'of course you can but are you allowed to?' May you?

'Can', denotes ability. **'May'**, denotes permission. In this case the 'may' is the promises of God permitting the blessing to come into being.

8. **How do these 'mays' reflect God in action?**
9. **How do these 'mays' demonstrate the church in action?**



LIVE purposefully

This is the article which always has to stay in force. For creation is now behind us and our rescue has also been brought about. But the work of the Holy Spirit never stops until the Last Day. For this purpose, a community on earth has been established through which all that the Holy Spirit speaks and operates takes place. For not yet all of the Spirit's Christian people have been brought together, nor is the handout of forgiveness complete. Therefore, we believe in the Holy Spirit who every day draws us into this community by means of God's Word, gives faith, makes it grow and makes it grow by means of the same Word and the forgiveness of sins. The Holy Spirit does this so that when all this is accomplished and we keep at it, giving up our hold on the world and all hardship, we will be finally made completely holy for ever.

Martin Luther – Third article - Large Catechism

10. How will you respond to the message this week? What pattern can you begin to establish as a disciple of Jesus? How can you develop the Gospel impact of God's commands in a way that, may be challenging, and rewarding?

- i) ***I will get out of God's way and let my mouth praise him???? Others***
- ii) ***I will***
- iii) ***I will***



PRAY intentionally

- Praise God for his gift of eternal life – today and always.
- Invite Jesus, once more, to restore you according to his original plans and fill you again with his Holy Spirit and His power to do the work he has called you to do.
- Ask the Father to give you some one (or two or three) to pray for, asking the Father to draw them to him. (John 6:44,45)
- Intercede for all those who put their own health and safety on the line, our teachers, healthcare workers, police officers, emergency service workers and defence force personnel.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones in any circumstance. Ask that they would receive comfort and a deep knowledge of God's grace as he sits with them, sharing in their grief.
- Check the prayer list in LifeWay News and pray accordingly.
- Thank God for all the gifts he has given you to share and to minister to others with love.
- Ask God to reveal the people of peace in our community that he wants us to go out to.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.

(This has become known as the Luke 10:2 prayer)

REMEMBER:

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God with us.

God in us.

God through us.

Be beautiful in Christ and make the devil nervous.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], clothed in Christ, you look great. Amen.