



I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹bove all things.**

³When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth. R**

⁵They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

⁶**The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right ¹ hand shall save me.

⁸**You will make good your pur- ¹pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works ¹ of your hands. R**

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure

of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has

not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.