

Call to Worship

Behold, bless the LORD, all servants of the LORD, Who serve by night in the house of the LORD!

Lift up your hands to the sanctuary and bless the LORD.

May the LORD bless you from Zion, He who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 134

Responsive Reading

(Taken from Psalm 136)

Leader

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

Response

For His mercy endures forever.

Leader

Oh, give thanks to the GOD of gods.

Response

For His mercy endures forever.

Leader

Oh, give thanks to the LORD of lords.

Response

For His mercy endures forever.

Leader

To Him who alone does great wonders

Response

For His mercy endures forever.

Unison

Oh, give thanks to the GOD of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.

Courteous

The word courteous means to be “respectful and considerate of others.” It is the word used by the Apostle Peter when he instructed us on how to behave toward one another.

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:8-9

Why does the Apostle Peter give this instruction to us? It is because Jesus taught him the very same thing. If you look in the Gospel According to Matthew, Jesus said:

You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Matthew 5:43-44

Jesus gave this instruction to the apostles, and to us, because He wants us to act as sons of our Father in heaven. We are to follow in the example of Jesus. And what did Jesus do? In the Gospel According to John, Jesus said:

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

John 14:12

Therefore, Jesus asks that we follow in His footsteps. Act as He would act. As we go on from here, as we face new circumstances, let us ask ourselves: *What would Jesus do?*

Benediction

Finally, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received, do; and the God of peace be with you. *In Jesus’s name, Amen.*

From **Philippians 4:8**