

# Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven

Words by Henry F. Lyte (1834)

Music by John Goss (1869)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To his feet your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who, like me, his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him, still the same forever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless;  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hand he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes;  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely yet his mercy goes.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
You behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

# Old Orchard Church

August 2, 2009 — 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

# Celebrating Jesus Christ, Caller of Disciples

“Where he leads, I will follow.”

So says every true disciple of a master who is good.

God is Creator, we the creatures;

God is Lord, we the servants;

Christ is Master, we the disciples.

Praise the Lord in the highest!

For he who made us has not abandoned us,

But instead comes to teach, to shape, and to lead us.

Blessed be the Name of the One who takes us up

Into his grand work of restoring good to the world!

Worship the One who calls us

To walk the same path of rejection he walked.

Adore him, for he, the high Master

Who could have kept us but servants,

Became for us a Friend who sticks closer than a brother.

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*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”*

## Scripture Readings

**Old Testament Lesson:** I Kings 18:15-39

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 8:31-38

## Sermon

"Worship as Discipleship, Discipleship as Cost"

II Samuel 24:18-25

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

# Will We Follow?

“To be or not to be—that is the question,” muses Shakespeare’s Hamlet one day in a brooding mood. He has a choice and sees it, so he weighs the options.

We Christians have a choice too, and we need to see it and weigh our options—daily, even hour by hour. The choice is whether or not we will continue to do what we have begun to do: follow Jesus Christ as his disciples. When we embraced Christ as our Savior, the One whose sacrificial death made atonement for our guilt before the bar of God’s justice, we got him also as our Master. When Jesus came to Matthew and said, “**Follow me,**” (Matthew 9) he was making a claim upon Matthew—upon his time, his love and loyalties, his money, even upon his life. And Matthew represents all of us. Christ’s claim in that gentle but firm invitation is his right to be Master. Only a fool arrogates to himself an authority over someone he has no right to command. That Jesus claims the right to say to a fellow-human being, “**Follow me,**” indicates either his arrogance or his divine right over us.

He said that to us when he first called us to himself, but he says it every-day: “**Follow me.**” Will I? Will I weigh my options and choose? Or will I do what many Christians do and wander through life, content to meander here and there, as if there was no Captain in the front, as if there was no Master leading his disciples along a definite route toward a holy and definite and exhilarating end?

The choice to follow Christ or not is the choice to appreciate or to resent the other person; to give in to this or that disordered desire or to confess and renounce it and claim Christ’s forgiveness for it; to befriend the poor or fill up my time with fun; to complain or to give thanks; to feed on the Word of God or to distract my hungry soul with a hundred lesser pleasures; to love or to hate; to lie or tell the truth even when it hurts; to gossip or to protect another’s honor; to worship Christ on the Lord’s Day with his people or go hiking; to give money back to the Lord, till it hurts, in gratitude for his grace, or to justify my stinginess in the name of being realistic; to take conscious, deliberate steps toward what is good, relying on Christ’s life and power in me, or to kick back and give myself to the swift current of self-centeredness which eventually will carry me into evil acts.

“**Choose this day whom you will serve.**” Joshua said that to Israel once. Elijah put the same challenge to God’s people several hundred years later: “**How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him**” (I Kings 18:21). It’s our choice too, whether we will be disciples and learn to follow him who is master. Everyone follows someone, even if only themselves. Choose today, August 2, whom you will serve. And choose tomorrow, and the day after that. Choose well and you will receive a disciple’s reward beyond your wildest dreams.

—Ron Lutjens