

## Magnify the Lord with Me

*Ps 34:1-3*

*1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

*2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.*

*3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.*

### I. Introduction

1. What better thing to be doing on this Mothers' Day, 2020 than Magnifying the Lord together.
2. What better thing to be doing on our reopening day, than Magnifying the Lord together.
3. Who knew back in early March that we would be spending two months under a Corona Virus stay-at-home order? Sunday, March 15, 2020 was our last day together, and we all thought we'd be surly back together by Easter Sunday, April, 12.
4. But here we are on May 10, almost two months later, finally returning to services where we can gather back together, even if it is in a temporary, gradual way.
5. But there is something that remains eternal about the church. It came in with a praise, it will go out with a praise, and it will be involved in praise throughout eternity.
6. Praising and worshiping the Lord is simply part of what the church is called to do. And before the church came along, God had His chosen people, Israel, whom He called to serve and worship him.
7. And even before Israel came along, He had a host of angelic beings in heaven that worshiped Him.
8. So what we are called to do today, is to continue something that has been going from ages past, and will continue through eternity future.
9. So will you Come Magnify the Lord with Me?
10. This morning let us join all those others who are seeking the Lord and say along with them:  
*Ps 40:16 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, **The LORD be magnified.***

### II. Magnify Him for these

#### A. For the blessings

1. And already this morning we have sung praises to the Lord, and perhaps you still have a song in your heart for the good things you have to be thankful for:  
*Ps 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will **magnify him with thanksgiving.***
2. But can we right now, magnify Him with thanksgiving for what He has done for us?
3. Do you have breath today? Magnify Him.
4. Did you already, or will you be able to eat something today? Magnify Him.
5. Did you have a roof over you with a bed and blanket to sleep in? Magnify Him.
6. Do you have some family member who loves you and whom you love? Magnify Him.

7. To those of you who got an unexpected check deposited into your account recently, can you Magnify Him?
8. To those of you who have a job, can you Magnify Him?
9. To those of you who in the midst of this global pandemic,
  - a. had someone treat you with extra kindness,
  - b. whether it was an understanding employer,
  - c. a generous person in front of you in the drive through,
  - d. or a total stranger who kindly smiled and waved at you,
  - e. can you join me and Magnify the Lord with me?
10. Can we magnify Him with thanksgiving?

**B. For what we don't understand**

1. Not only can we magnify Him for the blessings, but also for what we don't understand.
2. Perhaps you are like Mary—troubled in heart about the very strange and unlikely message you just received—but in the midst of not understanding, you can say:  
*Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,*
3. Mary was getting ready to suffer pretty significant reproach and judgment from friends and relatives who just didn't understand what she was going through.
4. She was going to be raising a miracle child whom she would have to watch suffer like none other, yet she chose that day to cry out, *My soul doth magnify the Lord.*
5. You see, it is always a good time to magnify the Lord, but it is especially good to be able to magnify Him when you do not understand what is going on.
6. Why? Because you are His chosen. And we can trust that the One who suffered so much on our behalf because of His great love for us, is not going to abandon us to lonely suffering.
7. No, He will remain close to you through it making sure that what was meant for evil, results in something good for you.
8. Come, magnify the Lord with me!

**C. During a time of panic**

1. Not only can we magnify Him for blessings, and for things we don't understand, we can also magnify Him during a time of panic.
2. What are you talking about?
3. Look at this passage telling a story that happened in the early days of Paul's ministry in Ephesus.  
*Acts 19:17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.*
4. Paul, the missionary, brought the message of Jesus to a city that was given over to witchcraft, magic, sorcery, and idol worship.
5. But that wickedness in the city didn't conquer Paul. He preached and saw many turned to Jesus.
6. The revival was so rampant that people took Paul's handkerchiefs to the sick and demon possessed, and they were healed, and devils fled.

7. But there was also a widespread panic because many folks could only see dread and fear in what was going on all around their city.
8. But when fear is present, fear can be overcome by magnifying the Lord.
9. In fact, when folks magnified Jesus in Ephesus, despite the fear, the spread of faith overcame the spread of fear.
10. Many people were delivered from sorcery, and brought all their items of witchcraft, valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars, and burned them.
11. This was a great city-wide revival when folks responded to fear by magnifying Jesus.
12. This is an oversimplification of all that happened in Ephesus, but I see in it a proper response to a time of panic.
13. Certainly, our time is a time of dread, fear, and panic among many people, but what will happen if God's church responds to our times by magnifying the Lord?
14. Magnifying the Lord will help others see what Jesus is doing in the bigger picture instead of just focusing on the problem.
15. Will you magnify the Lord with me?

#### D. For forgiveness

1. I want to conclude my thoughts this morning by turning our focus to a couple of very important things we can magnify the Lord for today.
2. I think it is easy to forget how important forgiveness is.
3. Yes, magnify Him for blessings, for what we don't understand, during a time of panic, but also let us magnify Him for forgiveness.
4. Think with me about what our existence would be like without God's forgiveness.
5. Have any of you ever sinned? I know I have. And an honest response would say we have sinned many times.
6. Without Jesus' sacrifice for sin on the cross and raising from the dead, there would be no forgiveness.
7. Do you realize there would be no hope whatsoever for anyone if there was no forgiveness?
8. We would all be living with a guilty conscience for every bad deed we had ever done and we would never feel peace in our heart.
9. We would forever be carrying chains binding us to condemnation for an inescapably heavy burden of sin.
10. But that is not the case. Jesus offers to take our guilt and condemnation for our sin, because He paid the price for it.
11. *Isa 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*
12. He paid the price for our forgiveness. He paid the price for our peace. He paid the price for our healing.
13. Can you magnify the Lord with me?

#### III. Closing: let us seek Him

1. This morning let us join all those others who are seeking the Lord and say along with them:  
*Ps 40:16 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, **The LORD be magnified.***
2. We need to seek both His forgiveness and His salvation.
3. There is no song like the song of the saints who have been redeemed.
4. We are in a blessed place this morning, gathered with the saints of the Most High, who have come to magnify the Lord.
5. *O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.*