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Opening Worship

The Seventh Calvin College Symposium on Worship and Church

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Symposium in Worship & Church Music
Opening Worship
January, 1994

Praise That Won't Forget
A worshipful walk through Psalm 103

The Call to Praise

The Call to Worship

Song: "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" (P.H. 465:1,2)

Reader 1:

*Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being,
praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits--*
(Psalm 103:1,2)

Song: "Bless His Holy Name" (P.H. 627)

In Times of Need

Reader 2:

*Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being,
praise his holy name.
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

All:

***The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel;***
(Psalm 103:3-7)

Song: "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" (P.H. 169:1)

Met By God's Compassion

Reader 3; All read bold type:

***The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.***

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.*

(Psalm 103:8-14)

Intercessory Prayer

Fragility Surrounded By Love

Reader 4:

*As for man, his days are like grass,
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
the wind blows over it and is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.*

All:

*But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with
their children's children--
with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.*

(Psalm 103:15-18)

Song: "My God, How Wonderful You Are" (P.H. 499:1,4,5)

Praise That Seeks To Expand

Reader 5:

*Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits--
The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
Praise the Lord, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
Praise the Lord, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.*

All:

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

(Psalm 103:1,2,19-22)

Song: "Praise, My Soul, the King of heaven" (P.H. 475:1-4)