

Give Thanks to God

Author J. Paul Williams

Composer David N. Johnson

Psalm 107: 1-9

Thoughts on the Text

We must never become so complacent that we cease to be amazed that the God of all creation would choose to share himself with us. Amazing grace must always leave us a bit breathless. And breathlessly, we can do no less than praise our God.

The world has a way of pulling us into its spell, and leaving us exhausted and dismayed. Our culture promises much more than it can deliver. We are lulled into its drama and desensitized by its over-the-top explicit portrayals of pleasure. Without our compass, namely God himself, ever before us, we are certain to lose our way. As another hymn says: "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love." That stanza continues with the plea: "Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above."

Give Thanks to God is much like a psalm of old. It is a call to worship, and it is a format for worship. Set to music, it can be sung. For those familiar with the style, it can be chanted. It can as well be read responsively. It is a hymn that engages us in both proclamation and action. It is a call to both sing and shout the greatness and goodness of the Lord, and to bow down in humble adoration and awe that can sometimes only be expressed in deep sighs. It is a call to joyous celebration in community with those of like faith, so that together we join our voices with those in heaven who sing and worship in endless praise.