

**Doxology: Songs of Praise**

**Evangelisation** means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking the transformation of individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself. At its essence are the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ and the response of a person in faith, both of which are the work of the Spirit of God. (USCCB)

“There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed.”

*(Evangelii Nuntiandi no.22)*

**Salvation stories**

<b>Crisis</b>	<b>Cry out for Help</b>	<b>God hears</b>	<b>God acts to save</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b>
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**The Exodus** - the foundational story for the People of God in the Old Testament

*(Exodus 2:23-25) After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.*

- Call of Moses (burning bush)
- The Plagues (God versus Pharaoh and his gods; God versus oppressive Empire)
- Passover
- The Crossing of the Sea into freedom
- Celebration

**The Song of Moses**

*(Exodus 15:1-18) Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:*

*“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.*

*2 The Lord is my strength and my might.*

*and he has become my salvation;*

*this is my God, and I will praise him,*

*my father’s God, and I will exalt him.*

*3 The Lord is a warrior;*

*the Lord is his name.*

*4 “Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast into the sea;*

*his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.*

*5 The floods covered them;*

*they went down into the depths like a stone.*

*6 Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—*

*your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.*

*7 In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;*

*you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.*

*8 At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,*

*the floods stood up in a heap;*

*the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.*

9 *The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.  
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'*

10 *You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.*

11 *"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"*

12 *You stretched out your right hand,  
the earth swallowed them.*

13 *"In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;  
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode. ....  
(Entry into the land celebrated)*

20 *Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went  
out after her with tambourines and with dancing. 21 And Miriam sang to them:*

*"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."*

- The book of Revelation (a kind of 'mirror image' of the Stories of Origins - symbolic visions about the 'end') paints the "scene in Heaven" - Still singing the song of Moses, but expanded now to also be the song of the Lamb:

*And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the  
beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God  
in their hands. 3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb ...  
(Revelation 15:2ff)*

## Introduction to the Book of Psalms

- Prayer / songbook of the people of God.
- Poetry - one prayer / song per chapter
- Traditionally associated with David. About 70 have superscriptions "of David"

## Different Numbering in the Book of Psalms

Hebrew	Greek (LXX)
1-8	1-8
9-10	9
11-113	10-112
114-115	113
116	114-115
117-146	116-145
147	146-147
148-150	148-150

### Hebrew numbering:

- Protestant Liturgy
- Used by most modern bible versions
- In all Bibles which exclude the Deuterocanonical books

### Greek numbering:

- Roman Catholic Official Liturgy
- Older RC Bibles
- Used in Orthodox Christianity

## Psalms of Praise: Hymn

What we are 'doing' in these psalms:

- Call to praise - addresses (potential) worshippers
- Motives for praise
  - Reasons for praising God
  - Generally refer to God in 3rd person ('about God')

- Major themes:
  - God as creator
  - God as redeemer

### Psalm 146

1 Praise the Lord!  
 Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
 I will sing praises to my God all my life long.  
 3 Do not put your trust in princes,  
 in mortals, in whom there is no help.  
 4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
 on that very day their plans perish.  
 5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
 whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
 6 who made heaven and earth,  
 the sea, and all that is in them;  
 who keeps faith forever;  
 7 who executes justice for the oppressed;  
 who gives food to the hungry.  
 The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
 8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
 the Lord loves the righteous.  
 9 The Lord watches over the strangers;  
 he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
 but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
 10 The Lord will reign forever,  
 your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
 Praise the Lord!

### Doxology

“Humanity at praise enacts its doxological, polemical, political, subversive, evangelical faith.” (Walter Brueggemann)

What is happening when we praise?

- Celebrating God and giving God God’s rightful place puts everything else in perspective.
  - It is God, not the powers-that-be, or the market, or any human ideology or institution, no one else’s script, that claims our allegiance and shapes our lives.
- We declare the Good News, remind each other of it and pass it on in the faith community.
- Call to praise - we widen the circle, notice the others praising alongside us.
- We live our way into the fullness of God’s kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.
  - Our words shape our imaginations, which changes how we notice and pay attention.
  - When we celebrate God’s overwhelming abundance and great kindness, the generosity flows into our own hearts and can spill over to others.
- The ‘You’ whom we praise is creator, redeemer and sustainer, the living, blessing, healing and forgiving God.
  - Those who are in faithful relationship with this ‘You’ are not selfish, exploitative or unconcerned about the consequences of their lives and choices for others.