

WELCOME – Michael Mauldin

Welcome everybody! Yes, give them a round of applause. That's awesome. My name is Pastor Michael. I want to give you guys a word of encouragement to kind of exhort us into the place of worship. I was reading this morning in 2nd Chronicles 20, it's a famous scripture in the context of worship, but Jehoshaphat was the king of Israel at this time, and they're in the midst of war, and they're facing their enemies, and they don't know what to do, right?

They begin to seek God, they begin to fast and pray, and they're like, okay, what do we do? And all of a sudden, the prophet gives a word and they have this strategy of a way to defeat their enemy. Their strategy was to send the worshipers out into battle first. Right? Imagine the scene. Imagine.. you've seen the movie "Braveheart." You're on one side of the field. You've got all your warriors. On the other side of the fields, the other warriors. Then all of a sudden coach is like, all right, guys, I got the plan. I got the strategy. You guys are going first. Could you imagine the faith that it would take for these guys to go wait a minute. Don't you mean the guys with the swords? And he's like, no, no, no, you guys with the instruments in the Song of Praise and the sword in your mouth. You guys are going to go first.

God's ways are not our ways, right? But check it out. Check out what happens. So he says, "believe in the Lord your God and you will be established. Believe in his prophets and you will succeed. And when he had taken counsel with the people and appointed those who were to sing to the Lord in praise and holy attire, they went before the army and said, give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever. When they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab and Mount Saier had come out against Judah."

The Lord began to defeat their enemies with a sound of praise and thanksgiving then went forth. When you think about this, it's not like this aggressive war song that they're singing, which you would want. Like you're going into battle like, give me something aggressive. But the song they're singing is give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever. It's pretty incredible.

I want you to think about whatever you're facing, whatever enemy you're facing in your life right now. We all have enemies. We all have trials. We're all facing something. But as we sing a song of thanksgiving and praise, it's a sacrifice to God. The Apostle Paul would say it like this: let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips, it honors His name. And as we sacrifice in that way, in faith, He begins to move on our behalf.

With me today, the band and you guys come on up, let's just begin to give Him thanks right now. God, we just thank you that you are a holy God. Thank you that you go before us and you fight our battles for us. Thank you that the victory is yours, that we can just get lost in you and put our cares and worries to the side, and God, you begin to move on our behalf. And so we thank you for your goodness, God, in Jesus name, amen.

GREETING – Bobby Schuller

Before we get to the preaching of the word, stand up, turn to the person next to you, shake their hand, give them a warm welcome, and say, God bless you.

DECLARATION/SCRIPTURE – Bobby Schuller

Stay standing. We're going to proclaim the scripture together. Before we do that, I would love for us to just pray aloud. Think of one, two, maybe three things you're thankful for. Think of it in your head right now. It can be your socks. It can be your husband. If it's your husband or your wife and they're here with you, say it real loud when we get to the time of prayer. It could be the Lord, your salvation, whatever it is. You live in Irvine or Orange County. That's amazing.

We're just going to do this real quick. Lift your hands like this with me, and let's just thank the Lord. Father, we thank you. Say it aloud. Whatever it is in your heart. Father, we thank you for all the good that you've done for us. We bless your name. We thank you, God. Thank you for our salvation. Thank you for our family, our friends, our health, our life, the air in our lungs. Thank you, God. Let's just keep saying it. Thank you, God.

Why don't you repeat after me? Thank you, Lord (AUDIENCE – thank you, Lord) that I am yours (AUDIENCE – that I am yours). No one can take that from me (AUDIENCE – no one can take that from me). I'm not what I do (AUDIENCE – I'm not what I do). I'm not what I've done (AUDIENCE – I'm not what I've done). I'm not what I have (AUDIENCE – I'm not what I have). I'm not what others say about me (AUDIENCE – I'm not what others say about me). I'm yours, Lord (AUDIENCE – I'm yours, Lord), because of Jesus (AUDIENCE – because of Jesus) I belong to you (AUDIENCE – I belong to you). Amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

Let's say the scripture together: Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits. Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagles.

Amen. Praise God.

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "The Key that Releases the Power of God"

Today's Communion Sunday, just a warning, we'll be going long. Longer than what's our normal long. My dream for this church, and I just blurted it out at a cafe, and Bethany had the sense to write it down. My dream is that we would experience the presence of the Lord here at this church. But not just like, in a metaphorical way, but really like the heavy cloud of the presence of the Lord would be here. And not only that we would do it, but that we would be willing to attain that at any cost. And to kind of just focus on what it means to be a people who want to be under the cloud by day and the fire by night. And to be in the presence of the Lord, even if it means we're out in the wilderness or the desert or whatever. I've just gotten to the place where I don't want anything else in my life. I want to be in the presence of the Lord.

And yet I've also realized, and this is hard for Americans, it's very hard to do on your own, that the way you experience the presence of the Lord is with a people who desire the presence of the Lord. And we can experience the presence of God on our own, but, man, it's not the same as a room full of very hungry people.

Have you ever noticed how people who are hungry eat different than people who are not that hungry? And I imagine people who are starving eat different than people who are just hungry. They're not thinking anymore about what people think about them. A lot of times etiquette goes right out the door. They just want to eat. And I want a church that's hungry. I want a church that's starving. And not starving really, but is now eating of a bread that the world doesn't know about.

Repeat after me: I have bread (AUDIENCE – I have bread) that the world doesn't know about (AUDIENCE – that the world doesn't know about). My food (AUDIENCE – my food) is to do the will (AUDIENCE – is to do the will) of Him who sent me (AUDIENCE – of Him who sent me) and to accomplish His work (AUDIENCE – and to accomplish His work).

That's what part of the fast is. The fast is saying, I can be so satisfied in feasting on the presence and the power of the Lord that it holds me over that my physical fleshly hunger almost doesn't matter. Actually, we're going to talk about this next week, but fasting is essentially saying to your body, I love you, but no, I love the Lord more. Recently, Hannah and Haven and I, and actually Aubrey, Haven's friend, who's I think here today. Are you here Aubs? Aubrey? Yes, there she is. We went to Hawaii and we went for a week, and my hope while I was there was to hear from God about a vision for this church for 2027.

And bless the girls who were with me. They gave me a lot of space. I had a lot of time sitting at a table under a plumeria tree, or sitting up on a balcony, and I spent a lot of that time, hours in the Bible with my cup of coffee just like, okay, Lord, I'm ready. I'm ready to hear from you. And like, I didn't hear anything. And I enjoyed the time, like I enjoyed it. And I, of course you hear from God when you read the Word, and I think the Lord helped me in that sense, and it was super enjoyable, but I was really hoping to get like a big vision for 2026.

And sort of towards the end of the trip, maybe like the middle end, everybody had just woken up, the sun was coming up and I had my little cup of coffee. I perpetually have coffee in my hands. And I went out and the sun was rising and people were walking their dogs, and then I just felt the Lord like, whoop. I was like, I wasn't looking for it. I wasn't trying to hear it, and I just felt the presence of the Lord. And I felt like the Lord was attentive and was just asking, like, what do.. He didn't say, what do you want? But I felt like the Lord was like, I'm ready. What is it? What did you want to hear from me?

I said, Lord, I want a vision for my life and for the church. And the Lord said, I'm not asking you to get a vision. I'm asking you to follow me and to be in my presence. And in a way, the Lord already gave me that vision, right? I mean, like, I'm not asking you to like in a business or a new company, you're like, here's our vision. Here's what we're doing. We're going to do this. And then ten steps da da da da. There's nothing wrong with this. Great. And that's what I want to do! But the Lord's like, just follow me. And that takes some faith, doesn't it? It takes some faith to just go forward, following this cloud and believing that it'll be there again tomorrow.

And the Lord dealt with me with some other things, and I really wanted this.. I was kind of telling, Lord, I want this church to just be like just a place that's constantly going after you, just full of worship. And I said, Lord, how do I get people to enter in? And the Lord said, I've already chosen them, which I thought was a strange response. I've already chosen them.

I interpreted that as, some of you have been chosen to enter in and God has chosen others who are to going to keep coming here. And I really encourage you believers, not to harden your hearts if you sense the Lord move. To not harden your heart if you feel like God is touching you in some way, but to humble yourself and yield your life to the Holy Spirit, especially in this place. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

I think that there are many of you in the building already who God has chosen, and what I heard from that is like, God's just going to do it even if I don't do anything. Like, He's doing it in your life individually. And I just begin to pray, and I pray for this church. You should know that if you're a member of this church, your pastors, including me, we pray for you every day. You're under a mantle of daily prayer interceding for you. And the greatest prayer we have for you is that you would know God. Amen. (AUDIENCE – amen)

I felt very strongly that the verse which I've talked on many times that will be a big part of this year will be Psalm 100. If you have your Bibles, you can open with me. It's a super familiar passage, especially having to do with the presence of God and with worship.

Brother Derek Prince preached on this a lot and offered many things before he went to heaven. I'll share some of the things he said and some of my own thoughts.

Psalm 100, verse 1. The first word is shout. What does shout mean? (AUDIENCE – shout) No, I mean in Hebrew, Michael. What does it mean in Hebrew? (MICHAEL – shout!) That's right. Michael, he had it right. What does shout mean? (AUDIENCE – shout) I'm sorry, I can't hear you. (AUDIENCE – shout!) Good. Whoa. Praise God. Presbyterian churches are not known for shouting. We're changing all that, aren't we? Are we changing that? (AUDIENCE – yes)

The shout is a shout of joy. So shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with what? (AUDIENCE – gladness) With gladness. I think we're about to go into a season of serious joy and gladness, actually. Praise God. Isn't that great?

Very often we think about presence, the presence of the Lord, we think of a grief and a repentance, and that's really important, too. We want to repent of our sin. But I just felt very strong it's going to be a joyful year. How many of you know joy is alluring. Okay. And it says, worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him with joyful songs. The ESV says, come into his presence with joyful songs. How do we come into his presence? (AUDIENCE – joyful) With joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are His. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. And this is the part we really need to remember: enter his gates with thanksgiving. How do you enter His gates? (AUDIENCE – thanksgiving) That's right. And enter his courts with praise. How do you enter His courts? (AUDIENCE – praise) With praise.

Give thanks to him and praise his name for the Lord is good and his hesed. This word - love. It says in NIV - hesed. Super important word in Hebrew, not translatable into English, really means His everlasting covenant, love and kindness. Like, He's just always faithful to do what He said. He's just so faithful to His covenant. For the Lord is good and his hesed endures forever. His faithfulness continues throughout all generations. Praise God.

Now there's a lot to unpack here, but the main piece I want to unpack is the very first step about how we get into the presence of the Lord. The type here is the temple. So temple you have the courts, the gates, which is the main way that you get through the wall. Right? There's a wall between the world and the temple. And how do you get through the wall? You go through the gates. And when you go through the gates, you go into the courts. And then from the courts you go into the house, which is the Hebrew word for temple, where the holy of holies is. And so that is the pattern for getting into God's presence.

Thanksgiving is the first step, praise is the second step, and worship is the third step.

You might say it like this. Thanksgiving is thanking the Lord for His goodness, praise is honoring God for His greatness, and worship is honoring God for His holiness. And that's the most important thing we end up doing, because you can thank people, you can praise people, but you can't worship people, right?

What we want to talk about today is that very first step. This is the first step, and so many people miss it. How do you enter His gates? (AUDIENCE – thanksgiving) With what? With Thanksgiving. Giving thanks. And that's what we're going to focus on for the rest of this message. It is the first step to get close to God. There is no access to God without thanksgiving and praise.

I was surprised.. there's a great man of God and he's mentored a lot of people. Michael Koulianos was telling me this, that when he used to drive this guy back in the day, he said that before he did his big events, he would stop and just pray and enter God's presence for four hours. And it really gave me a new.. but nobody knew that. Just his driver, Michael knew that. And in fact, David Diga Hernandez, who was here a few weeks ago, we went to lunch, and he was also close with this minister. And I said to David, I was like, Koulianos told me that this guy goes and he prays for four hours before every event. And you were with him for years. Is that true? And he goes, oh absolutely, sometimes more.

And one of the things, and Hannah keeps bringing this up, one of the things he said that was so important is he said about 75% of that prayer time is just worship; getting close to God before you ever pray. He said, if you had, like, the thing I learned from him is that if you have like one hour, spend 45 minutes just in worship, and then the 15 minutes is what you actually do in prayer. It's interesting. Not right or wrong. I'm just saying it's what this guy did.

The word for Thanksgiving is Eucharista. Eucharistia. So the core word there is charis. Charis which means grace. And Eucharistia means a grateful response to grace and favor. So that's the word for thankfulness. It means that you're responding to God's grace. That's where we get the word Eucharist from. Too often, everybody in here who has been baptized and declared Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is going to heaven and not going to hell. That's an incredible gift.

That alone, aside from our health, our family, our food, are all the many things; that alone, someday we'll understand how great a gift that was and how great a sacrifice it took to get that gift to us.

Eucharistia is the constant understanding and thankfulness that the Son of God laid down His body for me and was tortured for me. Amen. (AUDIENCE – amen) And I think most of us have no idea how much we've been given. At the heart of thanksgiving is just understanding in a humble way, wow, I can't believe how much God has given to me and how present the Lord is.

Hannah had a great reflection. She was wondering about in Nazareth when it says that Jesus could not do any miracles there because of their lack of faith. In the Gospel of Mark, the word is "could not." So Jesus literally could not do miracles in Nazareth because of their lack of faith. That's His hometown. And she's asking this question. She's like, okay, Lord, there had to be people there who were sick, who needed healing, who needed deliverance from demons. They needed to be set free, but they could not be, even though Jesus was right there. They could have touched Him, they could have talked to Him, they could have spent an hour or two with Him, and He could not heal them. Why? Because of their lack of faith.

And the question was, where did that lack of faith come from? It's a good question for the church today, isn't it? And the answer, I think, is familiarity. You're just familiar with Him. It's Jesus. Yeshua. It's just Josh. Joshua is.. anyway. It's just Josh. It's just Yeshua.

There's something about knowing God, that unfortunately, it's like when you get in a hot tub at first and it's like shocking, and then you're in there a while and it doesn't seem that hot anymore. The temperature didn't change. You did. And very often there's something about us, we just kind of get used to the Lord, and the gratitude goes out the window. Do you think that affects God in some way? Do you think it affects us? The answer is yes. "A human being is someone who can get used to anything." That's what Dostoevsky said in *Brothers Karamazov*. Isn't that right? A human being. This is the positive and the negative. We are in a building right now that's the perfect temperature. Blank faces. So what? That's amazing! I mean, just the list of all the amazing. There's like a wall here. It's like magic. It's incredible. Everything is incredible! We're just used to it. Unbelievable. Unbelievable.

Everything that you've done today. If you could talk to someone from a 150 years ago, just your normal day to them would be unbelievable. Mind blowing. We're just used to it. Just familiarity. How do we fix it? Thanksgiving.

Don't be like my nephew Caleb, one of my favorite nephews; my favorite nephew. One year Caleb, he's old now, so he wouldn't do this, but when he was a kid, his birthday's on January 1st, and so we were with him on Christmas, and then New Year's Day comes around, he's in the room playing video games, and I'm like, 'hey, Caleb, happy birthday' and I handed him \$50. That still stings for me. I'm like, 50 bucks. Here you go. And I never forget, he had a lollipop in his mouth, he's playing video games and he goes. And I was just like.. like didn't even take the lollipop out to say thank you.

How many of you know, I wanted my money back immediately. I wanted it back. I didn't ask for it back, but I wanted it back. And I've teased him about it before, but there's some aspect of our lives that's kind of like that. We get our food, we get our how.. just health.

Those of you who are sick right now, you might remember, wow, I remember what it was like to be healthy, but most of us are healthy. God's going to heal you, by the way. He's going to heal you. Okay?

So just declare with me: I am thankful to the Lord (AUDIENCE – I am thankful to the Lord) for everything (AUDIENCE – for everything). Thank you, Lord (AUDIENCE – thank you, Lord), for my salvation (AUDIENCE – for my salvation). Thank you for my healing (AUDIENCE – thank you for my healing) in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name). Amen (AUDIENCE – amen). We can be the opposite of that, right?

When we are thankful for what we have and thankful for what we're believing for, like just thanking God in advance, I thank you that I'm well. I thank you that you've died for me. I thank you that you meet all my needs. And we're in the trial. We just become like a magnet for God's goodness and God's provision, God's healing.

It's so simple and basic, and yet one of those things that we forget to do. And when we as a church, as a church become a very thankful people, especially thankful for the cross, we are taking that first step as a church from being outside of the gates to being into the courts. Going through the gates, like much closer to God's presence. Isn't that interesting? Worship in church is not a little deal. It's a very big deal. And it's not just a big deal for you, it's a big deal for me. If the church I'm attending is not getting into God's presence, it affects everybody who wants to get in. Because when we're gathered, God sees us as one body, not a bunch of little people. We're the bride, we're the body of Christ. Amen. So it's a big deal.

I was talking to a gentleman recently who is bragging on his church, and I'm sure it's a great church, but his attitude was not good. He says, yes, we go and we sing some songs or whatever, but then when the songs are over, then we get into real theology. I was like, brother, worship is theology. There's way more happening theologically when the congregation sings together and prays together than actually even in the sermon. And I don't want to denigrate the preaching of the Word - the preaching of the Word is really important - but that part, that first part is so important. Many Christian people, especially Christian men, get embarrassed during worship. That's crazy to me. The men should be leading the charge. The men should be at the front making that proclamation.

I actually believe that if you have some kind of demonic oppression in your life, or something that's got you, there's a very good chance you're going to feel embarrassed during worship. That's the word - embarrassed. And it's not you that's embarrassed, it's that the words that are being preached, especially in these holy hymns and songs that are proclaiming the goodness and the greatness of God, if there's some part of you that's entangled with a demon, that demon is going to feel embarrassed. It's like God looking at Satan saying, loser, loser, loser. And there's a part of you that's connected to that, going, oh, I don't know. I don't like this. You don't feel that way when you go to a rock concert. You don't feel that way at a football game. Why do you feel that way in the presence of the Lord?

And there is a part of you when the worship and the music is going, that will want to leave because you feel embarrassed. That's not you. That's something that has you. And here's a promise: either you will leave and it will go with you, or it will leave and you will stay. Endure it. Amen! Dive into it. Lean into the knife. Let God cut that out of you. Amen.

The Bible says that worship and praise silences the enemy. Isn't that good news? Silences the enemy. Praise God. We get access to God with thanksgiving through praise. A thankful heart is a heart that's primed to receive. Now, if you hear this last little bit of the sermon, your life will never be the same. It's just going to immediately get better.

Immediately. A thankful heart is primed to receive from God.

Brother Keith Moore, one of my favorite preachers, told this great story about something precious to him that was expensive that he wanted to give to a good friend who was a man of God. I don't know what it was, probably.. I don't know why I think it was a watch. Men love giving watches to each other. And the man received whatever this thing was, and he said, 'this looks expensive.' And he says, 'well, for you it's free.' Is that a good deal? He said, 'I just can't. It's too expensive.' And he goes, 'yes, you can. Just take it.' He goes, 'I can't, I can't. It's too expensive. I'm sorry.' And he turned it back.

Brother Keith didn't show it, and the guy wouldn't have known, but he was irritated. How many of you know that's offensive to say I can't it's too expensive. What's he implying? He's implying that when Brother Keith felt led to give him the gift, he wasn't hearing from God.

He was implying that Brother Keith had something that was too expensive as an insult. And more than that, where Brother Keith wanted to sow a seed into someone's life, now Brother Keith's not going to receive the gift of sowing. That guy could have sowed it into somebody else, worn it for a week, given it to someone else, sold it, given the money to the poor, whatever. But he just said no.

Hannah's mom said this about the Jesus Movement. She said they used to be critical of people who were proud of having too much. Snobby and having too much. But then she realized, although they were proud of having too much, we were proud of having too little. See, pride is pride and receiving is actually humility. Isn't that good? That when you receive a gift from the Lord, that's humility. Amen.

Thankfulness is a humble heart. Thankfulness is humility. Thankfulness multiplies. In Matthew, chapter 14, I'll just read it to you real quick. It says "Jesus replied," this the feeding of the 5,000. "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat. We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish, they answered. Bring them here to me, he said, and he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking five loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven," what did He do? "He gave thanks and broke the loaves." I want you to notice He never once prays for multiplication. He didn't pray. He just thanked God for what was already in His hands. And God multiplied what Christ was thankful for. Isn't that right?

Don't say I have nothing. We all have something. If you got a heartbeat, you got something. Praise God. You've got your voice, you've got your words, you've got your experience. We all have something. In fact, declare with me: I've got something (AUDIENCE – I've got something), and I thank you, Lord, for it (AUDIENCE – and I thank you, Lord, for it).

In fact, thanking God for what you're believing for is an act of faith. Doc Horton, W.M. Horton, he grew up in the south in a poor time. And, like, biscuits were a special time, and, like, they would only make biscuits on Sundays. But he had a bunch of older brothers, and he was like a little guy. And so very often his brothers would get all the biscuits and he wouldn't get any. And they had a rule in their house that if there was one biscuit left, doesn't matter who was there or who had their hand on it, the first person to say "thank you for the biscuit" got the biscuit. If you're on the other side of the room and your big brother was reaching for the biscuit, you said, "thank you for the biscuit" it was yours. That's a kingdom principle.

Many of us, we won't thank God for the Word. We won't thank God for the promise of the thing we're believing for. We don't thank Him until we see it. That's not faith. That's sight. Isn't that right?

Another great story on Thanksgiving, Catherina, who is our HR person here at the church, grew up Catholic, wonderful, loves the Lord. But when she was married, she and her husband couldn't have a baby for like two and a half years. And they kept trying, trying, and she kept begging God, 'God, please, please give us a baby. Please give us a baby. Please, please.' And just like nothing ever happened. She'd weep, Lord, give us a baby. And then she went to Hannah's Night of Healing, and she heard Hannah say, that's not how you pray. You claim and you stand on what God already said. You claim it for your life. You stand on the Word and you thank God in advance. And so later that week, she took a pregnancy test. She was about to jump on the shower. She put it on the counter, and she went into the shower, and this time she's like, Lord, I thank you that I'm pregnant! Woo! I thank you that you've already done it. I think that your promise is true for me. I thank you and just begin thanking the Lord like this. She got out of the shower, and that time, the first time she did that, you already know the story, right? Pregnant.

Now, praise God for that. There's power. There's power. Thanksgiving is the key that releases the power of God. When Jesus went to the tomb of His friend Lazarus, He also didn't pray, did He? He just simply said, Father, I thank you that you always hear me.

And then He said, Lazarus, come forward. What did He say? Father, I thank you that you always hear me.

Let's just say that to the Lord right now. Close your eyes. From your spirit, say it. Father, I thank you that you always hear me. Praise God.

Now, what's the opposite of gratitude? It's a good question, isn't it? I think the Word in the Bible is murmuring, grumbling, complaining, we might say. Don't raise your hand, please. You get in trouble. But do any of you live with a grumbling, murmuring, complaining person? Or have you in the past? Now, I know some of you really want to raise your hands, but it's miserable, isn't it?

Here's a really good question: Who wants to be in the presence of a complaining, grumbling, murmuring person? Even complaining, murmuring and grumbling people don't want to be around people like them. They want to get around people like you. Did the Israelites grumble and murmur? (AUDIENCE – yes) Did it help them? (AUDIENCE – no) Is the world murmuring today (AUDIENCE – yes) and complaining (AUDIENCE – yes)? Is it helping (AUDIENCE – no)? That's right.

If you don't want to be around a complaining, murmuring, grumbling person, why do we think God wants to be around somebody like that? Who does God want to be around?

Thankful, thankful, thankful people. Thankful people. Amen. Thankful people.

Romans 1:21 says this, "for although they knew him, they never glorified him as God, nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened." This is talking about people who are lost. So put that back up again one more time. Did they know God? (AUDIENCE – yes) So they knew God, but what happened? They didn't glorify Him anymore and they didn't give thanks to Him. Does this happen in the church sometimes? (AUDIENCE – yes) Not this church. Amen.

Timothy 3:1-2 says, "But mark this, there will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy." Now just leave it right there. What comes right before unholy? (AUDIENCE – ungrateful) Ungrateful. Somebody say, not me. (AUDIENCE – not me) I'm grateful (AUDIENCE – I'm grateful). Amen.

Let's prepare our hearts for communion. But first, we need to respond to the word, amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) You have something to say to the Lord? Just lift your hands like this. Say, thank you, Lord. (AUDIENCE – thank you, Lord). Thank you for it all (AUDIENCE – thank you for it all). Thank you for my life (AUDIENCE – thank you for my life). Thank you for my family (AUDIENCE – thank you for my family). Thank you for the victory (AUDIENCE – thank you for the victory). Thank you for healing (AUDIENCE – thank you for healing). Thank you for your holy presence (AUDIENCE – thank you for your holy presence). Thank you, Lord (AUDIENCE – thank you, Lord) in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name), amen.