

“The Doxology”

If you are new to the Christian faith or haven't been to church in a long time, this song may be unfamiliar to you. Let's listen to it.

"Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."

This song has been around a while, written in 1674, it's actually the last verse of a seldom-sung hymn, "Awake My Soul, and With the Sun."

The Doxology comes from two words: "Doxa-" and "-logia". Of course you already know about the second half of the word, "zoology", "biology", "archeology", etc. refers to the study of animals, life, and old things. So, "-logia" means "to say or speak." So, people who say or speak a lot about "lions and tigers and bears" are called "zoologists." [List of -ologies]

So, what's a "Doxa"? What is it that a doxologist would say or speak about, or in our case, sing about in a "doxology"? "Doxa" means "glory." A doxologist is someone who says or talks about God's glory. A doxology is a song of praise to God's glory. FOUR times in this short chorus the word "praise" is used.

Four Questions the Doxology Answers

A. Why would we praise God? Because we're blessed!

Let's listen to an acappella version of the Doxology by the Gunderson Family.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

James 1:12-14, 17 (NLT)

¹² God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else.

¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away ...

¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens..."

-- Blessing comes in the midst of hardship.

Testing: a challenge God allows to grow us.

Temptation: following our own desires away from God.

-- God has a storehouse of what is "good and perfect" ready to shower upon us.

B. Where should praise God? Here below!

Our last version had no music, just voices. Let's switch that around with this version with only an acoustic guitar, by Michael Gundor.

"Praise Him, all creatures here below."

Psalm 103:19-22 (NLT)

¹⁹ The LORD has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything.

²⁰ Praise the LORD, you angels, you mighty ones who carry out his plans, listening for each of his commands.

²¹ Yes, praise the LORD, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will!

²² Praise the LORD, everything he has created, everything in all his kingdom. Let all that I am praise the LORD.

Kid Question: Do you have a favorite chair, where you watch T.V. or play video games? How big is it? God has made the entire heavens his favorite chair ... his throne to rule the Universe.

Kid Activity: Lay on floor. Turn out lights. Imagine it's night time. Describe the night time sky: _____. "All of it, everything you see, and cannot see, it's all God's throne."

We are to Praise Him while we're here.

C. Who is our praise-partner? The Heavenly Host!

This version is the "new doxology" by the Gateway Worship band.

"Praise Him above, Ye Heavenly host."

Luke 2:13-14, And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

One day, I don't know when, I will join that heavenly host! What will *you* be doing a million years from now?

D. Who are we praising? The trinity!

Finally, tradition wins out! Here is the Doxology on Pipe Organ, the tune is officially known as “the Old 100th”.

“Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

1. Father. “... I have been given authority.” The Father gave authority.
2. Son. “Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.” Jesus was a real man, teaching.
3. Holy Ghost. “... I will be with you.” The presence of the Holy Spirit.

Praise the Father for authority, power.
Praise the Son for wisdom and guidance.
Praise the Spirit for help and comfort.

A closing prayer ... “Dear God, we Praise You today. You have all authority and power. You give us wisdom and guidance. You help us and comfort us in time of need. Every perfect gift flows from Your blessing. And so, we worship You and give You every ounce of who we are. In Jesus name, amen.”