

(Standing)

HYMN TO JOY

God of wisdom, truth, and beauty,
God of spirit, fire, and soul,
God of order, love, and duty,
God of purpose, plan, and goal:
Grant us visions ever growing,
Breath of life, eternal strength,
Mystic spirit moving, flowing,
Filling height and depth and length.

God of drama, music, dancing,
God of story, sculpture, art,
God of wit, all life enhancing,
God of every yearning heart:
Challenge us with quests of spirit,
Truth revealed in myriad ways,
Word or song for hearts that hear it,
Sketch and model -- forms of praise.

God of science, history, teaching,
God of futures yet unknown,
God of holding, God of reaching,
God of power beyond each throne:
Take the fragments of our living.
Fit us to your finest scheme.
Now forgiven and forgiving,
Make us free to dare and dream.

To the God of lasting wisdom, to the God of relentless change, to God be glory,
majesty, dominion, and power,

Now and forever. Amen.



Education

(Standing)

We praise you, Lord! We give thanks to you with our whole heart!

Great are your works, full of honor and majesty and studied by all who delight in them.

The works of your hands are faithful and just.

Your precepts are trustworthy.

Our reverence for you is the beginning of wisdom.

You are to be praised forever.

GOUDIMEL (205 A)

Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty King!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
Ever bright and fair in love;
Sun and moon, lift up your voice;
Night and stars in God rejoice.

All-knowing Creator, from whom comes every good and perfect gift, we praise you for the wisdom, power, and love displayed in the natural universe and in humanity, whom you have placed within it to care for it and nurture it.

All glory to you, omniscient God!

Light of the world, we praise you for being the eternal truth.

All glory to you, Christ our teacher!

Revealer of the deep things of God, we praise you for your gifts of awe and wonder which lead us on the path of true wisdom.

All glory to you, Holy Spirit!

JOANNA

Great God of all wisdom, of science and art,
O grant us the wisdom that comes from the heart.
Technology, learning, philosophy, youth --
All leave us still yearning for your word of truth.

(Sitting)

IN BABILONE

Let us pray:

(Sitting)

God of vision and wisdom, we confess our short-sightedness and folly in our search for knowledge and understanding. For our pride in pursuing and using knowledge in ways that make us think we are superior to others, we ask your forgiveness.

For our misuse of science and technology, leading to the oppression of people and the abuse of creation, we ask your forgiveness.

For our failure to ask hard questions and our willingness to be satisfied with easy answers, for our ignorance of history and tradition, and for our stubborn resistance to new insights of both heart and mind, we ask your forgiveness.

We neglect the study of Scripture, the foundation of all true learning. Although your splendor has illuminated our path, we have chosen to walk in darkness.

Although your guidance is always available, we have relied upon our own will.

Although you have given us wise counsel, inspired writers, and thoughtful teachers, we have turned to our own ways.

Gracious God, you forgive us through Jesus Christ. In humble acknowledgement of your love revealed in him, we give you thanks, and pray the prayer he taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth

as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil,

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

In the crowds that came to Jesus,
Teaching up and down the land,
There were some who scorned and mocked him,
Some who did not understand.
But the ones who listened humbly
Learned to trust him and obey,
Learned to love and be forgiving,
And believe in Jesus' way.

Divine Teacher, to you we commend all who learn: infants tasting and touching, children exploring in play, youth testing and challenging, and adults continuing the quest.

Bless our learning with your Spirit.

In the disciplined mastery of subject and skill, in the reflection on life experience, in the practical wisdom of long years,

Bless our learning with your Spirit.

At every age and in every circumstance of life,

Bless our learning with your Spirit.

Give patience and understanding to those who teach. Give perseverance and openness of heart and mind to those who learn.

Bless our learning with your Spirit.

Spirit of truth, to you we commend all the educational ministries of the church. Guide us in the search of the Scriptures, in the study of creation, and in the pursuit of truth. Give to parents your wisdom and thoughts, that with love and understanding they may guide to Christian maturity the young lives entrusted to their care. May congregations nurture faith in children, youth, and adults.

Hear our prayer, Spirit of truth.

Bless all those responsible for education in our community and country: teachers and administrators, custodians and clerks, students and families. For their gifts and their service,

We give you thanks.

For all the diversity of human study and knowledge -- for science and art, for literature and drama, for labor and play -- for all the teaching experiences of life,

We give you thanks.