



doxology
/dakˈsələdʒi/

noun

1. An expression of praise to God, especially a short hymn sung as part of a Christian worship service.

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The Doxology **— a Universal Hymn of Praise**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, you heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (LSB 805)*

This song of praise has only twenty-five words, but it is sung worldwide and is likely the best-known verse of all Christian hymnology or poetry. It is universally known as the Doxology.

Rev. Thomas Ken wrote these plain words in the late 1600s to be the last verse of three hymns. One for the morning, one at noon, and one in the evening. He intended for his students at Winchester College at Oxford University to memorize and use them as devotional hymns. It is that beloved praise chorus that has endured over hundreds of years.

The Lutheran Service Book has two other hymns written by Thomas Ken. One is “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” (868) – a morning hymn, and “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” (883) – an evening hymn. Both include the Doxology as verse six. It is amazing how this one verse has weathered the ages and become a universal Christian song of praise.

Thomas Ken had many Bible references that he could refer to as he penned the words to the

Doxology, as there are well over one hundred praise verses in the Bible. Let’s read through Psalm 150, the Psalm of praise as it tells us to:

*Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary;
praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him
for His surpassing greatness.
Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise Him with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him with tambourine and dancing,
praise Him with the strings and flute,
Praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise
Him with resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the
Lord. Praise the Lord.*

When we praise God, we praise the one who gave us life and breath, that is one reason why the Doxology is timeless.

Let’s pray: *Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.* (1 Chronicles 16:36).

Scriptures: New International Version



Prepared by the Christian Growth Committee, LWML–Canada, Inc