

ENGLISH VERSION

Opening service of RIMP 12th June 2025

**Welcome, votum,
greeting and blessing**

Minister: Our help is in the
name of the Lord, who made
heaven and earth (Ps 124:8)

Assembly: Amen

Minister: Grace be to you and
peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ in the
communion of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen

Hymn of Gathering

Hosanna (P Baloché)


1. Praise is rising, eyes are
turning to You, we turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are
yearning for You,
we long for You

Cause when we see You,
we find strength to face the day
In Your Pres- ence
all our fears are washed away,
washed away

CHORUS

Ho- san- na, ho- sanna
You are the God
Who saves us,
worthy of all our praises

Ho- san- na, ho- sanna
Come have Your way
among us
We welcome You here,
Lord Jesus



2. Hear the sound of hearts
returning to You, we turn to You
In Your Kingdom broken lives
are made new,
You make us new

Cause when we see You,
we find strength to face the day
In Your Pres- ence
all our fears are washed away,
washed away

CHORUS

Ho- san- na, ho- sanna
You are the God
Who saves us,
worthy of all our praises

Ho- san- na, ho- sanna
Come have Your way
among us
We welcome You here,
Lord Jesus



BRIDGE

Cause when we see You,
we find strength
to face the day
In Your Pres- ence
all our fears
are washed away
Cause when we see You,
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In Your Pres- ence
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among us
We welcome You here,
Lord Jesus


Passing the Peace in Greeting

Prayer of invocation

Minister: Almighty God,
As we stand in awe of your
goodness and mercy today,
we invite you to be present
amongst us by the power of
your Holy Spirit.

Father, we declare that we
love you.

Thank you that you have
made the way of love known
through your son Jesus Christ.



We pray that you would reveal
this great love to us all today
as we gather to worship.

Lead us by your Spirit to praise
you.

May our hearts overflow with
thanksgiving and our mouths
proclaim your everlasting
greatness.

In the wonderful name of Jesus
we pray,

Assembly: Amen.

Hymn of praise

Hosanna

(Hillsong)

1. I see the King of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes

2. I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing
The people sing

CHORUS:

*Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest*



3. I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith

4. I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees
We're on our knees

CHORUS:

*Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest*

Bridge musical

Bridge

Heal my heart
and make it clean
Open up my eyes
to the things unseen
Show me how to love
Like You have loved me
Break my heart
for what breaks Yours
Everything I am
For Your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth
into eternity

Bridge musical

CHORUS:

*Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest*

*Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest*


*Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest*

Confession of the Faith:

Apostle's Creed

Assembly:

I believe in God, the Father
almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only
Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius
Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was
buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again
from the dead.



He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to
judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of preparation

What a Beautiful Name

(Hillsong)

Verse 1

You were the Word
at the beginning
One with God the Lord
Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now, revealed in You our Christ

Chorus 1

What a beautiful Name it is,
what a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ
my King
What a beautiful Name it is,
nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is,
the Name of Jesus

Verse 2

You didn't want heaven
without us
So Jesus,
You brought heaven down
My sin was great,
Your love was greater
What could separate us now?

Chorus 2

What a wonderful Name it is,
what a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ
my King

What a wonderful Name it is,
nothing compares to this

What a wonderful Name it is,
the Name of Jesus

What a wonderful Name it is,
the Name of Jesus

Bridge 1

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin
and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

Bridge 2

You have no rival,
You have no equal
Now and forever,
God, You reign
Yours is the Kingdom,
Yours is the Glory
Yours is the Name
above all names

Chorus 3

What a powerful Name it is,
what a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ
my King

What a powerful Name it is,
nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is,
the Name of Jesus

Bridge 3

You have no rival,
You have no equal
Now and forever, God,
You reign
Yours is the Kingdom,
Yours is the Glory
Yours is the Name
above all names

Chorus 4

What a powerful Name it is,
what a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ
my King

What a powerful Name it is,
nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is,
the Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is,
the Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is,
the Name of Jesus

Prayer of Illumination

Minister: Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

Reading of the Bible

Psalm 46

To the choirmaster. Of the Sons of Korah. According to Alamoth. A Song.


God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear
though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be
moved into the heart of the
sea,

though its waters roar and
foam,

though the mountains tremble
at its swelling.

Selah



There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most
High.

God is in the midst of her; she
shall not be moved;
God will help her when
morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms
totter;
he utters his voice, the earth
melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our
fortress.

Selah



Come, behold the works of the
LORD,

how he has brought
desolations on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the
end of the earth;

he breaks the bow and
shatters the spear;

he burns the chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am
God.

I will be exalted among the
nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!”

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our
fortress.


Selah

Preaching of the Word

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

‘Singing as a soldier's moral force’, that's the wonderful theme of this conference. And it is a good thing to sing together and lift his Name up high. Today in this sermon I'd like to underline to you the importance of #Selah in your life and worship of the Lord

So #Selah that is the key word I want to give you today. And that in response to Psalm 46. Among theologians also known as the Luther-Psalm. And if you love motorsports, then of course for you the number 46 is inseparable from the legendary Valentino Rossi. I did a bit of research, but unfortunately Valentino Rossi did not choose the number 46 because of the Psalm. It would have been nice though.



Most of you will know, that **#Selah** it is also a word from the Bible. The word Selah appears a total of 74 times in the Bible. Of which 71 times in the book of Psalms. And three more times in by the prophet Habaquq.


And you probably didn't hear it just now, but it also appears three times in this beautiful Psalm we just read: Psalm 46. Most Bible interpreters assume that the word "Selah" is some kind of clue to the people who were to musically accompany the Psalm. And especially also for the conductor or "choirmaster".

If you can read sheet music yourself, you know that sometimes above a piece there is a word like 'Allegro' or 'Adagio' or 'Amaroso' or 'Fortissimo.' And then you know that the piece in front of you should be played "joyfully," or "slowly and sensitively," or "lovingly" or just "very loudly".

Most Bible interpreters assume, that the word 'Selah' is an indication of a short rest. Not to go too fast. Not to play too fast. And to let the meaning of the words you have just sung come to you and be impressed by God. If the Psalms and the Bible were written today, it probably would have said something like "just chill for a moment". That short rest didn't come naturally for the readers or the singers of the Psalm. Hence the musical instruction. As if God is saying, "You could use a little **#Selah** in your life right now. Listen. Stand still. And chill.


And I think that doesn't just apply to the Israelites long ago. You and you and I could also use a little more **#Selah** in our lives. That applies anyway, I think, to your daily life. Which for most of us in Europe and maybe also in Africa everyday life is busy, busy, busy. And I don't know about you. But that busy and full by-the-week life, also has a lot of impact on how you shape your life with God.

Personally: Prayer and Bible reading often have to be quick and in between. Just five or ten minutes. And the world moves on again. On to the next activity. But also as a church-congregation. Just look at the way we design many church services together. So often they are ... busy and full. And it has its beautiful sides, of course. But I think there are also dangers in it. Namely, that we get too carried away.



And also that, as a pastor, you stand between God and your congregation with your words and your stories, as it were. Too many words. Too little **#Selah**. Too little time to be impressed by God together and be in His presence.

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Think about what it's like when there is someone in your life you love. Then you know that no relationship is enough with words alone. Loving each other involves all your senses, all your mind, all your feelings and all your imagination. Your relationship with God and with the Lord also needs that. It is, after all, a love relationship.

That is also what Jesus Himself did. If you know the Bible, you undoubtedly know how Jesus lived his life with a few sacred habits. For example, He knew a set regularity of going to synagogue on the Sabbath. And He also had the habit of regular retreats. Away from the crowds of people who wanted something from Him. To be alone with God. Jesus had **#Selah** in His life. Because He knew: 'Inner empty, tired and just busy people cannot distribute God's love

I can only distribute to people if I let myself be filled with His Spirit again and again.'

If you have a desire to become more like Jesus. For yourself. Or if you want to share God's love in your city, your town or with your colleagues in the military.

Then it is good to follow Him in that too. Jesus-followers are people, who know about stopping. Who know about **#Selah**.

Some time ago I read an interview about with pastor Arjan Plaisir. From 2008 to 2016, he was the president-pastor of the biggest protestant church in the Netherlands. Above the interview was "Stop this endless ranting in the church".

So you understand, my curiosity was piqued. A little further on, he then says, "You know, the church can become a business. You're busy with your church habits, but the piety is gone. And then suddenly you wonder: Is there still depth in this, is there still the urge to worship in this, is our church still a place of devotion? Do we allow the emptiness in the church, the silence in which God speaks to us? Do we dare tears of emotion in the church, tears of repentance? Or is it all polished, beautiful phrases, beautiful liturgy, measured, throbbing - but there is no place for the cry from the heart".

I think he longs for something like **#Selah.**

That's also why Jesus took a loaf of bread one night, broke it and distributed it to his disciples. And why He also later took a cup of wine and passed it around. He wanted His disciples, when He would soon go to His Father, not just to tell and preach about His miracles, healings and teaching. But He also wanted them and their disciples to have something to look at, something to hold, to taste. To become still for a moment. And to marvel at the goodness of God. That He would rather see His Son die than you.

But how do you do that? How do you find more **#Selah** in your life? I believe Psalm 46 gives us some short powerful pointers for that. For that, you need to know that the Psalm was probably written a stressful time.

Jerusalem is surrounded by hostile armies. No one can get in or out of the city anymore. People in the city are afraid, that their last hour has struck: "We're going to die!" they say to each other.

If there are people anywhere in the world right now who can empathize with this Psalm, it is the people of Ukraine. Last I saw how, Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, the singer of one of Ukraine's biggest bands, crawls behind a piano at the train station in Lviv and other places and sings encouragement to people: "The enemy will be defeated". Super powerful.

Even here in Jerusalem, during the siege of the city, there is someone who picks up a pen and writes a song. Psalm 46. To encourage people in Jerusalem and to let them experience a piece of **#Selah**.

The first verse (vs. 1-4) is about being safe with God. That He wants to be a safe refuge for you. He writes, “Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way / though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea / though its waters roar and foam / though the mountains tremble at it swelling”

When violent things happen, when the waves of life wash over you, you are often tempted -just as once the people in Jerusalem and later also disciples of Jesus- to look primarily at the water. At the circumstances. It can make you fearful and uncertain. Extraordinary to see how the writer of Psalm 46 urges you to keep your focus not on what happens to you, but on God. On Jesus. And then he says **#Selah**. Let that sink in.

In the second verse (vv. 5-8), the writer tries to impress upon you and you and me the presence of God. And that He is not a God far away, in a heaven far away from here, but that He is in our midst. He writes, "God is in the midst of her / she shall not be moved / God will help her when the morning dawn". In Jerusalem, in Old Testament times, people experienced this several times in special ways.

That God really was there.
Especially since the temple was
there.

Christians believe that since the coming of Jesus, God no longer dwells in temples of stone, but that as a believer, you yourself are a temple of God. That He is with you. Dwelling in you. I know of quite a few people here in this place who experience God's presence for themselves, "Yes, that's about me". But it can also happen that you don't have that; and that you are in church this morning, but you just feel far away from God. And maybe struggling with God, but haven't surrendered yet. And to get there, my brother my sister, you need **#Selah**.

An Eastern Orthodox bishop once told the following story, "There was an old man who was in the habit of spending hours in church. At one point his friends asked him what he was doing there all that time. 'I am praying,' he replied. 'Oh, said his friends, 'then you must have a lot to ask God.' Somewhat surprised, the old man said, 'I'm not asking God anything at all. 'But, then, what are you doing there all this time?' they asked. He replied, 'I sit and look at God and God sits and looks at me.' That is **#Selah** my brother and sister, and I hope and pray the Lord will give that to you.

And finally, in the last verse (vs. 9-12), He puts you on notice of the power of God: "Come and see what the Lord has done", he writes. "Be still and know that I am God". This is about how many people in Jerusalem thought, that they themselves had to defeat that army at the gates,

that the future of the city of peace was in their hands. In their arms. And when I think about it, I do recognize myself.

Precisely also as a Christian, and certainly as a pastor, I feel that I have much to do. That the future of the church (and the world) is in my hands. But does the writer here say "Ho, stop. Cease the struggle.

#Selah". Don't you remember and don't' you realize that God is fighting for you? That it's not your church, but His church? That this is all about Him? And if being honest, is indeed something I often forget. To get back there. Back to the heart of worship, I and together we need more **#Selah**.

We are now well together here on the RIMP as Christians from all kind of places. I hope you will want to think about whether and how you might allow more **#Selah** into your life in the coming period.

Imagine if every week at set time. Let's say every Monday at 12h00,. we would just sit back for a moment and pray for example in our hearts, the Lord's Prayer. And that would be cool to know that everywhere in the world there are brothers and sisters praying with you at the same time. A little piece of **#Selah** in your life.

And I hope and pray that He may give you more moments like that in the time ahead. And that you may allow this stillness to give you new peace, joy and blessing and thus quiet your restlessness. Because, my brother, my sister, He has already done everything for you. Like, Jesus said, It is finished (Amen)

Who You Say I Am

(Hillsong)

VERSE 1

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

CHORUS

**Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

VERSE 2

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

CHORUS

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

BRIDGE

I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am

I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
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You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am
Oh I am who You say I am
Yes, I am who you say I am


CHORUS

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Minister: Holy God, we come before you in prayer, lifting to you the joys and concerns, the hopes and dreams of our lives. May we also be open to your voice in our lives that we may see with new eyes, and hear with new ears, the direction you will have us to go. Bless, we pray, this gathering of your people that we may grow and flourish in your love and grace for the purpose to which you have called us.



Hear our prayers for those whose lives have touched us—those who are in pain, those who are ill, those who grieve. May we touch their lives not only through our prayers, but through our lives and actions as well. Guide us, bless us, uplift us, and hold us, for we are your children called to our purpose in your world. Hear our prayers, those spoken and those hidden in our hearts, we pray in the name of Christ our Lord.

Assembly:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Benediction

Minister: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2 Cor 13:13)

Assembly: Amen