

# IN LOVING MEMORY



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The entire **DWIRA & HAIZEL** family extend their sincere appreciation for your sympathy and kindness during their time of grief.

May God Bless you

**THANK YOU**



**MRS. MAUREEN HAIZEL DWIRA**

January 29th, 1958 - January 8th, 2021



**GRAVESIDE SERVICE**

**PRAYERS**

**PASTOR MARK FULLER**

**HYMN**

**WHEN PEACE IS LIKE A RIVER**

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**Refrain:**

**It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul**

**BURIAL & COMMITTAL PRAYER: PASTOR MARK FULLER**

**DISMISSAL**

**PALL BEARERS**

**SAMUEL ANNAN  
RODGER BONNEY  
SAMUEL GYECHIE**

**DAVID BOLFREY  
SAMPSON BOYE  
FREDERICK MENDS**

**OFFICIATING**

**PASTOR MARK FULLER  
PASTOR MICHAEL ANNANCY**

**PASTOR HENRY JOHNSON  
PASTOR WISDOM TOKOLI**

**ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH  
777 SW 19TH STREET  
MOORE, OKLAHOMA 73160**

**TEMPLE AND SONS FUNERAL HOME  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

**DAUGHTER-IN-LAW:** Alyssa Lofton

**GRANDCHILDREN:** Lorelei, Hudson

**BROTHERS:** Mr. KN Haizel, Prof. KA Haizel, Mr. KM Haizel, Mr. Eustace KA Haizel, Mr. Kwesi Peters

**SISTERS:** Miss Dorothy Haizel, Miss Judith Haizel, Mrs. Susanna Cofie, Miss Victoria Mackin

**COUSINS:** Mrs. Sophia Amposah, Miss Georgina McCarthy, Miss Effie McCarthy, Mrs. Lily Okwaisie, Miss Hannah Johnson. Miss Hilda Johnson.

**NEPHEWS:** Fred Mendis, Nathan Aferi, John Haizel and others.

**NIECES:** Mrs. Gladys Haizel Gyechie, Dr. Francine Mendis, Mrs. Lydia Amponsah Mireku, Miss Maureen Haizel Jr., Mrs. Marjorie Tagoe-Lotti (Mama Lee), Jade Tagoe and others

**CHIEF MOURNERS:** Anona Kusubentir of Gyamsedze Ebusuapanyin Nana Amankwa Bugyei of Kormantse and Cape Coast, Victor Emmanuel Dwira (husband), Mrs Janet Kowfie, Mr Kweku Amonoo, brothers and sister; Evangelist Brother Amissah Nephews & Nieces, Mrs. Lydia Amponsah Mireku, Mrs Sophia Amponsah, Miss Effie McCarthy, Mrs. Georgina Aferi. Mrs. Dina Anyemedu, Mr. & Mrs. Sam & Hannah Asamoah- Boadu; Mr. & Mrs. Samuel & Eva Bondzie, Mr. Ernest Clinton; entire Dwira and Ofori-Sampong family; Mrs. Elizabeth Mendis, Mrs Lily Okwaisie, Miss Hannah Johnson, Miss Hilda Johnson, Captain Mensahvi Amusuglo brothers and sisters; Miss Patricia Osei, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel and Gladys Gyechie, Mr & Mrs. Daniel Cofie, Mrs. Juliana Brown-Acquaye, Ms. Clara Dodoo, Mr. & Mrs. Nathan and Lydia Sowah, Mr. & Mrs. Carlaus and Rosina Addo, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel and Dorothy Annan, Mr. & Mrs. Seth and Kayi Atakora, Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester and Lucy Atakpo, Mr. Emmanuel Bimpeh (Atlanta), Mr. & Mrs. Max and Viola Brodie-mendis, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph and Francisca Assifuah, Mr. & Mrs. David & Kate Bolfrey, Mr. & Mrs. Doyle and Debra Debro, Mr. & Mrs. John and Tina Hammond, Mr. & Mrs. Eric and Dora Obuobisa, Mr. Raymond Mills-Tetteh, Mr. & Mrs. Edward & Florence Berko, Mr. & Mrs. Andy and Mabel Opare, Mr. & Mrs. Red and Kate Anum, Mr. & Mrs. Albert and Mary Ainooson, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Beatrice (Dedee) Elbah, Mr. & Mrs. Sampson and Laura Boye, Mr. & Mrs Ebenzer and Betty Sowah and the entire Oklahoma Ghanaian Community.



## WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit  
O what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy laden  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee  
Thou wilt find a solace there

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## "CAME TO MY RESCUE"

by Hillsong United

Falling on my knees in worship  
Giving all I am to seek your face  
Lord all I am is yours

My whole life I place in your hands  
God of Mercy Humbled I bow down  
In your presence at your throne

## BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight.  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest.  
I in my Savior am happy and blessed  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.  
*Refrain*

I called you answered  
And you came to my rescue  
and I, I wanna be where you are...

In my life be lifted high  
In our world be lifted high  
In our love be lifted high



## BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE

### MRS. MAUREEN HAIZEL DWIRA (a.k.a Sister)

The late Mrs Maureen Haizel Dwira, also known as Ewuraba Yahan or Sister was born on January 29th, 1958 at Cape Coast in the central region of Ghana to Madam Victoria Kwam and Mr John Haizel both of blessed memory. She was the sixth child and the first daughter of Victoria Kwam. Madam Victoria Kwam had five male children and she wanted a female child desperately. When God blessed her with a female child, she started calling her *Sister* and that eventually became the name she was mostly called by.

She started her basic education at Philip Quacoe Primary and Middle School at Cape Coast and later attended Aggrey Memorial Zion Secondary School also in the Central Region from form one to form five.

Maureen nurtured the ambition to continue her education, so she worked for a while at Central Regional Development Corporation (CEREDEC). Whilst working she started preparing to travel abroad to further her education.

In 1985 she succeeded in travelling to America to study nursing. She settled down in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She worked hard to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) which she practiced until her untimely demise on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Maureen met Mr. Victor Dwira in Oklahoma City and they got married. Their marriage was blessed with two children, Derek and Victoria.

Sister Maureen was a peace-loving person and was the unifier in the family. She was approachable and was always ready to support any family members whenever needed.

Maureen was down to earth, affectionate, generous, kind-hearted and an inspiration to everyone who crossed her path. Her love and infectious laughter will be dearly missed.

Maureen was survived by her husband, Victor, two children, daughter-in-law and two grand children. May her soul rest in perfect peace until we see her again.



*Friends so dear*



### TRIBUTE FROM DAUGHTER VICTORIA

There aren't many words that a daughter can express after losing her Mom, role model, greatest friend, biggest advocate, and number one person there for her through anything. My Mom showed me the importance of documenting moments and memories with a picture. Most importantly she showed me how to love others unconditionally with your whole being in the way you give, serve, and show compassion to others.

Each day it gets a little easier, but there is a big piece of my heart that will always be with my mom. I'm thankful for the ways she shaped and molded me into the woman that I am today. Her voice, her laugh, her smile, her testimony and zeal for life will live on and radiate inside us all forever. The little girl who watched her mom apply makeup and dress up with amazement will pass down these traditions for years to come.

Although she will no longer be with me in physical form, I know her presence will be with me through every major and minor moment in life. I'll love and miss you forever Mommy.

### TRIBUTE FROM SON DEREK

Nobody thinks of the last time you'll see someone. Conversations we've had are now echoing through my head. Advice given to me are treasured nuggets of you that I will pass onto your grandchildren.

My guardian angel, I never got to thank you for giving me the strength, courage, wisdom, charisma, perseverance, and humor which made me the man I am today. Although you've left us physically, I know you watch over us with your mother. A word from a wise is enough. I love you always.





*A Life Well Lived*



### TRIBUTE FROM BROTHERS AND SISTERS

*The righteous perishes and no man takes it to heart; merciful men are taken away, while no one considers that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come. He shall enter into peace: They shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness. Isaiah 57: 1- 2.*

Maureen! Can someone help or explain to us how to say goodbye to a sister we loved so dearly?

We were hoping this was just a dream when we heard of your passing on to glory. Our hearts are broken and our lives are shattered.

Your siblings are dazed; we cannot believe you are gone and that we would no longer hear your sweet voice speaking words of wisdom and motivation to us. You never got angry, no matter how much you were provoked.

Our Sister played the role of a mother to us, her siblings, when our mother left us to glory. She adopted some of her nieces and nephews and supported them in their education. Our sister played an important role in the family and her affection, love, kindness and care for our family was incomparable.

Sister, your departure from us has left a great void which can never be filled. Our light has been put out, suddenly leaving us in total darkness. Sweet Sister, we promise you that we shall console and comfort ourselves with memories of your warm smiles and affectionate love and kindness.

Maureen, our beloved sister, may your soul rest in perfect peace in the bosom of the Almighty God.

**Onua pa da yei! Damirifa due, due!**





*Family*



*The Smile*





Precious Children,  
in-laws and  
Beautiful Grandkids



#### TRIBUTE FROM NIECE FRANCINE MENDS

My sweet Aunty Maureen,  
When I was maybe 3 or 4 years old, just after you came to live with us from Ghana, I had a M&M dispenser shaped like a large yellow M&M. When you would ask me for an M&M from my toy, I would say No! and run away.

You teased me about this for years! This is what I will miss about you the most—your playful nature, your easy smile, and your natural ability to lift my spirits and light up a room.

Thank you for your hugs, words of comfort, and the endless help when we lost our Dad, your brother. Thank you for being proud of me. Thank you for the million things you've done for me that I don't remember or know about. Thank you for simply existing.

You called me your beautiful niece, but you were my beautiful Aunty inside and out. I love you, I miss you, and you will be part of my heart forever.



#### TRIBUTE FROM NIECE — MARJORIE TAGOE-LOTTI (MAMMA LEE)

Maya Angelou often said "*People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.*"

What I remember most about my Aunt Maureen is that she made me feel beautiful at a time when the world was telling me I wasn't.

I was 11 years old and my classmates teased me endlessly about my lips...my nose... my cheekbones...

There was a moment when I came home from school crying... I remember it like it was yesterday... Maureen would tell me she was saving a dress for me to wear to prom... That I was her little "model"... That I was ... Beautiful...

You see... The world told me I was ugly... Aunt Maureen told me I was beautiful... I believed Maureen.

And that made all the difference for an 11 year old little girl who was hurting... Like Maya Angelou suggested, there is a lot I've forgotten about what Aunt Maureen said and what she did...

But I will never forget how my Aunt Maureen made me feel just when I needed it most... And that is something I will treasure for the rest of my life.



*My Loving Wife*



*The Diva of Photos*





## TRIBUTE FROM NIECES AND NEPHEWS

### TRIBUTE FROM NIECE, GLADYS HAIZEL GYECHIE

*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28*

Aunt Maureen, as I affectionately called her, was a woman I feel incredibly grateful to have had as an aunt. When I think of her, so many fond memories come to mind that will live in my heart for a lifetime. She was a woman who wholeheartedly gave her all in everything she did. She was there for me no matter the circumstance, day or night. I wouldn't be where I'm today if it had not been for my Aunt Maureen. She was very instrumental in my stay in the US and most especially in my marriage. I have never seen or felt such love like the one she exhibited to me and my family. Her light shone wherever she went and ensured that there was always laughter and happiness. She was generous and made an impact on so many lives.

My Aunt was a mother and a father-figure to many. She offered great advice and directions to me whenever needed. I remember a time when she was giving me advice and said, "Gladys, I would not be here forever". I smiled over it and took that as a joke. It still feels like a dream to lose such a bright and exuberant person in my life. I do not know how to recover from the shock. I can only hope in the word of God that says 'Our soul waits for the Lord, He is our help and our shield'...Psalm 33:20.

Aunt, may you rest in the bosom of our God Almighty!



### TRIBUTE FROM NEPHEW FREDERICK MENDES

My dear Auntie,

Oh how I wish I could hear you address me as "Officer" one more time. Yours was always a soothing voice with that smile and laugh. I couldn't help but to smile for no reason when you appeared. You made everybody so comfortable around you. I'm still in shock and think about you daily, just as I do your brother, my Dad. I know you are up there together having a serious conversation as you always did down here. Take care of each other until we meet again. I love and miss you so much.

Rest In Peace dear Auntie





## TRIBUTE TO OUR SISTER IN LAW FROM ACKON-MENSAH FAMILY

Maureen, our awesome sister in law became a part of the family her brother married into! Maureen was a different kind of in law. Her brother Frank Yooku Mends married our sister Elizabeth Mends! The bonus was: Maureen became our sister!

Her brother Yooku said of Maureen: *She has become an Ackon - Mensah!* Maureen, also affectionately called Sister was, to all intents and purposes part of us. She embraced all of us, participated and supported all our activities.

Maureen! Sister! Maame Yehan, your absence has left a vacuum. Those who engaged in batter-trading items with you will miss that. Those who can no longer enjoy brief chats with you will miss that. Those who can no longer go to functions or shopping with you will miss that. Those who enjoyed taking pictures and selfies with you will definitely miss that. Many of us got caught on camera, when Maureen was present.

Yes Sister you'll be missed on so many levels, by so many. Your infectious laughter and beautiful constant smile will be solely missed. There are regrets for not chatting longer when you were on admission in the hospital, thinking to save your breathe. Unfortunately we just have to manage our regrets. Maureen your threats (after disagreements) of "I'm coming to make up with a kiss" will be solely missed. Our 'adoption' of Sister goes right back down many decades when she was still a teenager! It is a relationship, surviving many decades, it is entrenched in our hearts. How do we say goodbye?

Maureen we love you and would miss you more than words can ever express. We thank God for the woman of faith that you became. We thank God for the wonderful mother that you became. Yes, we thank God for the adoring wife that you became. And yes, for the strong pillar that you became for your family, your late mother, your brothers and sister. Maureen you went beyond the call of duty to reach out to many family members. Sister, rest in God's eternal peace until that 'day eternal' when 'soul and body will meet again'. Until then dear beautiful Sister rest peacefully under our Father's wings.

Nantsew yie. Nyame mfa wo nsie. Damirfa due!  
Damirfa due.







### TRIBUTE FROM DAUGHTER IN LAW

To My Mother-In-Law:

Instead of being sorry for the time we have lost with you, I will be thankful of the time we had with you. I'm thankful for your warm welcome into this vibrant, loving family. I know they will continue to embrace us and share your memory. I'm thankful for being shown why we

should celebrate every single day with a hundred photos, only wishing I had taken just a few more. I'm thankful to have witnessed on many occasions your unabashed pride, and for experiencing your love and support. You taught me to love despite all differences, because only through love can we make true change. I'm thankful for your lessons in giving. You'll always be remembered for your generous heart. For teaching me to cook jollof your way, the best way: One of the things I'm most thankful for (aside from my husband of course).

I cannot think of one single thing that better expresses love and pride and soul than a recipe never written, rarely spoken, but made time and time again, sought after and savored. Your recipes are a piece of you, and I will reminisce about you with each pot I cook.

My heart aches knowing that Lorelei and Hudson have lost their grandma, and so a piece of their culture; and my husband, his mother and so a piece of himself. Our family has lost its matriarch and together we will grieve, but we will also celebrate you. Cheers to your beautiful life, may you rest easy knowing that you have done what you were put on Earth to do.

**Rest in Peace.**







LOVING TRIBUTE TO MY DEAR BEAUTIFUL WIFE

*There is time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die. Ecclesiastes 1:1*

It is hard to believe that my wife, Maureen-Ewuraba -Maame -Yahan as I cherished to call her is no more with us. She was more than a wife to me because she was my advisor, sister and mother. In fact, she was the embodiment of all I had in my life. Her departure from the world has created a very big vacuum in my life that cannot be filled.

During her lifetime, we shared moments of joy and pain together. I trusted, respected and cherished her. She was precious to me as I found in her all the qualities I wanted in my life's partner. She was a devout Christian who also served as my prayer partner. What I did like about my lovely wife was that she was a hardworking woman who went about her work with diligence. In fact her humility, sense of purpose, words of wisdom and her Christian values made her unique among women. She loved singing Christian songs and listening to Christian teachings and sermons on her I-pad.

Maureen was kind-hearted, generous and compassionate, and everyone who associated with her could testify to this fact. She smiled all the time and never discriminated against anyone. She was respectful to everyone irrespective of the person's age, race, creed and status in the society. I have lost a great soulmate and the grief is dreadfully painful.

My lovely wife, I know you are absent in the flesh but present with the Lord. I will always remember you in my heart. Your legacy remains alive with me and the children. You were a wife and mother like no other. We will always celebrate your memory. You ran the race God set before you.

Maame Yahan rest in perfect peace,  
till we meet again in the Lord's bosom.





# ORDER OF SERVICE

FOR THE LATE

## MRS. MAUREEN HAIZEL-DWIRA

FUNERAL AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE

OPENING PRAYER	PASTOR MARK FULLER
HYMN (PAGE 24)	WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS
WELCOME ADDRESS	PASTOR MICHAEL ANNANCY
PRESENTATION	OKLAHOMA NURSE HONOR GUARD
SCRIPTURE: (ECCLESIASTES 12:1-8)	PASTOR HENRY JOHNSON
HYMN (PAGE 24)	BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE
BIOGRAPHY	MR. FREDERICK MENDS
TRIBUTE FROM HUSBAND	MR. DAVID BOLFREY
TRIBUTE FROM CHILDREN	DEREK & VICTORIA
TRIBUTE FROM DAUGHTER-IN-LAW	MRS. ALYSSA LOFTON
FAMILY TRIBUTES	MRS. DOROTHY ANNAN
SONG (PAGE 24)	"CAME TO MY RESCUE"
PASTOR'S MESSAGE	PASTOR MARK FULLER
REFLECTION OF LIFE	VIDEO
ATENEBAN (FLUTE)	MR. KOJO TAKYI-MICAH
PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY	PASTOR WISDOM TOKOLI
CLOSING HYMN (PAGE 27)	HOW GREAT THOU ART & DOXOLOGY
BENEDICTION	PASTOR MARK FULLER
FINAL VIEWING	

# CALL TO GLORY

**Mrs.**  
Maureen Haizel Dwira  
A.K.A SISTER

Widower: Mr. Victor Emmanuel Dwira



## FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS

Viewing: Friday, February 12th, 2021 at 3pm -7pm  
Temple Memorial Funeral Home  
2801 North Kelley, Oklahoma City , OK 73111

Thanksgiving service: Saturday, February 13th, 2021 at 11am  
Abundant Life Church - 777 SW 19th Street, Moore, OK 73160  
Livestreaming on YouTube and Facebook  
[www.youtube.com/user/ALCmultimedia](http://www.youtube.com/user/ALCmultimedia)  
[www.Facebook.com/Abundantlife.Moore](http://www.Facebook.com/Abundantlife.Moore)

Burial: Saturday, February 13th, 2021 at 12:45pm  
(Immediately following service)  
Heritage Burial Park at South Lakes - 4000 SW 119th Street, Oklahoma  
City, Ok 73173  
Livestreaming @ zoom.us  
Meeting ID: 975-8476-7301  
Passcode: DWIRA

## FOR FURTHER INFO PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING

Victor Dwira: 405-831-0275	Eva Bondzle: 405-326-4792
Victoria Dwira: 405-401-1494	Samuel Bondzle: 405-326-4671
Derek Lofton: 405-664-4835	Dorothy Annan: 405-210-8638

Donations can be mailed to: 1417 Ridgeway Drive, Moore, OK 73160  
Please make checks payable to Victor Dwira | Cashapp: \$VictoriaDwira  
**MASK & SOCIAL DISTANCE REQUIRED**





## OBITUARY

Anona Kusubentsir of Gyamsedze Ebusuapayin Nana Amankwa Bugyei of Kormantse and Cape Coast, Nana Ekow Ben, Obaahenma Esi Wuna, Okyeame Kweku Saakwa, Nana Apaah, Opanyin Kwesi Bo, Uncle Kobina Atta-Fynn, Uncle Ekow Mensah, Obaapayin Nancy Akroful, Madam Adjoa Eyiba and entire family of Anona Kusubentsir of Gyamesadze, Mr. Victor E. Dwira (husband) and the Dwira and Ofori-Sampong family regret to announce the sudden death of their beloved

### MRS. MAUREEN HAIZEL DWIRA

{aka sister}

SUNRISE JANUARY 29, 1958 - SUNSET JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> 2021  
WHICH OCCURRED AT MOORE, OKLAHOMA USA ON JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

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#### FUNERAL & BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

THERE WILL BE NO WAKE KEEPING.

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- VIEWING:** Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3pm-7pm  
Temple and Sons Memorial Funeral Home  
2801 North Kelley, Oklahoma City, 73111
- THANKSGIVING SERVICE:** Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11am  
Abundant Life Church: 777 SW 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Moore, Oklahoma 73160
- BURIAL:** Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:45pm  
Heritage Burial Park at South Lakes,  
4000 SW 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73173

**HUSBAND:** Mr. Victor Emmanuel Dwira

**CHILDREN:** Derek Onyema Lofton, Victoria Emma Dwira

#### HOW GREAT THOU ART

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art"

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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