

In the **HOUSE** *of the* **LORD**

LESSON #3 – HYMN OF PRAISE



After the Invocation of the name of the Triune God, we humbly enter His presence in order to beg for His forgiveness. We confess our sins to God, then we hear the pastor announce that our sins have been forgiven by the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This announcement of Jesus' forgiveness establishes peace in our hearts that then produces praise on our lips.

We join with those in the worship service, as well as the saints and angels in heaven, to praise the all-powerful God. Just as the angels praised Jesus at His birth, so we praise Jesus as the Son of God and the Lamb who shed His blood for our sins.

Why does it make sense for us to proceed into praise immediately after the absolution?

Worship and Praise

Why is God worthy of our praise?

- Psalm 30:1-5 *I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.² O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.³ O LORD, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit.⁴ Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name.⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

Read Psalm 103. List some of the reasons why God is worthy of our praise.

What is acceptable praise to God?

- Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*
- Hebrews 11:6 *Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*
- 1 Peter 4:5 *You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*
- 1 Peter 3:12 *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*
- Matthew 15:8 *These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*

What kind of praise truly reflects the glory of our majestic and loving God?

- Matthew 16:15-19 *"But what about you?" [Jesus] asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*
- 1 Corinthians 2:2 *For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*
- Acts 2:42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*
- Philippians 4:8 *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

Excellent praise always keeps the focus on _____.

Excellent worship centers on _____.

Some truths regarding God-pleasing public worship:

What hasn't God told us about worship?

- Galatians 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

How does God want our worship to be done?

- 1 Corinthians 14:40 *But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*

On what is worship to primarily focus?

- 1 Samuel 3:9 *So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.*
- Psalm 96:2 *Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.*

Lutheran worship is not a performance by the pastor or a concert by the choir. Rather, we want all the Christians gathered together to be active participants in the worship service. Why?

- 1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

Open a hymnal and page through it. Look at the dates and authors of some hymns. Why do we use songs in our liturgy and hymns that are very old, and yet some songs and hymns that are very new?

- Ephesians 2:19 *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household ...*

Why are music and art important to worship?

- Psalm 81:1-2 *Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob! Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre.*

Two quotes regarding Lutheran worship:

The Lutheran Church has a rich legacy to offer in its worship. Here is reality, not symbolism. Here we have real contact with God; not as we come to Him, but as He comes to us. He meets us in the proclamation of the Word. Here the Son of God distributes His actual body and blood for the assurance of the forgiveness of sins. Here the people of God gather to offer their thanks, their praise, and their prayers. This is the real thing!

... People are longing for God. Where will they find Him? In the shifting sands of the inner life or on the solid rock of the Word of His Gospel? How are they to offer Him their thanks and praise? With trivial methods borrowed from the entertainment industry or in worship forms which focus on the praise of God's gracious glory? This is the kind of worship that lifts the heart while it exalts Christ! And this is what Lutheran worship does.

- **Harold Senkbeil, Sanctification, NPH**

In a changing world the liturgical service offers changelessness – 1800 years of it! ... Among people who are searching for roots the service offers a tie to the past. To people who are terrified of the future the service looks ahead to the next generation of worshipers. In a society of causal carelessness the service brings dignity. ... The historic form of the Christian Church ... does not speak of nuclear power or the arms race or Ethiopia's starving masses, but about sin, grace, forgiveness, life, and heaven. The service is timeless and uncommon; it wants to be so. And thereby it puts the mature believer for one hour each week into a setting which reminds him that his relationship with Christ is also timeless and uncommon. The Sunday service with its historic order has nothing to do with earth – and neither does the worshiper. And yet, as he comes before the throne of God he receives power to live on his earth as God would have him live.

- **Professor James Tiefel, A Twentieth Century Look at Worship**

THE DIVINE SERVICE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD: *Gloria in Excelsis*

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer, receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God, glory to God!

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.

You take away our sin, you comfort our spirit; you make us pure and holy in your sight.

You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

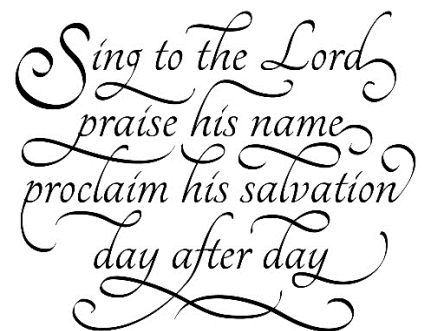
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,

you came to live with us; you made your Father known, you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Look at the two songs of praise from the liturgy. What is similar?



Sing to the Lord
praise his name
proclaim his salvation
day after day

The Liturgical Church Year

Season/Festival	Time	Emphasis	Color
Advent			
Christmas			
Epiphany			
Lent			
Easter			
Pentecost			
End Time			

How does a liturgical church calendar enhance faith?

- a.
- b.

There are three main festivals during the Church Year – Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. These festivals insure that we review Jesus’ birth, His resurrection, and the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing us to faith.

Another way of looking at this is that the first half of the Church Year we examine Jesus’ life, in the second half we examine the Christian life. A third way of looking at it is that in the first half we focus more on Jesus’ person, in the second half we focus more on Jesus’ teachings.

Some practical tips on worship:

- Try to arrive in plenty of time so that you can collect your thoughts, clear your mind and pray before the worship service begins.
- Be aware of your surroundings – church architecture, furnishings, banners, etc, can all add to the richness of your worship.
- The more regularly you are into the Word during the week (family devotions, personal Bible study, etc) the more rewarding your Sunday worship will become.
- Preview the Scripture readings before you come to worship.
- Use the hymnal in your daily devotional life.
- Come to Sunday School/Bible Study. The more you learn about God, the more you will want to worship Him, and the more rewarding your worship will be.
- Remember what worship is to be – it is to focus on God and what He has done for us through Jesus.

A hymn that teaches the faith: Christian Worship #248 – “When in Our Music God is Glorified”

When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!

How oft, in making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue:
Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
When utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
Alleluia!

Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise;
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia!

