

Daily Worship

For seven days present a food offering to the LORD. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work (Leviticus 23:8).

Scripture: Leviticus 23:4-8

Song: “I Was Glad”

While I was growing up, church was a regular part of my life. I have special memories as a young girl of learning about Jesus, singing songs, and playing with friends there. It’s where I came to know Christ as my Savior and Lord and where I learned about worship.

In the Old Testament, God made His dwelling among His people. Every day was to be a day of worship, of knowing Him. The Lord appointed festivals as sacred assemblies where the people would gather to remember His goodness and faithfulness. These festivals helped tie their worship to the events in their history and daily lives. Worship was not to be separate from life.

God calls us, too, to make worship part of our daily lives. He longs that we should draw near to Him—not just on Sunday, but every day of the week; not just in the big events of life, but in the small ones as well. Worship comes through sacrificing moments of our days to present ourselves before the Lord. As we bring a sacrifice of praise, He inhabits our praises and fills our hearts with His peace.

Father, I want to remember You throughout my week. I choose to worship You daily, celebrating You in life’s big and small moments, looking to You in Your goodness and faithfulness. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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 March 14–20. **Sherilyn Grant** is a Bible teacher. She enjoys traveling, cooking, and photography.

The Covering

“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt” (Exodus 12:13).

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14

Song: “O the Blood”

I grew up knowing Jesus and following Him, and I watched as many of my friends and siblings walked through a rebellious stage during which they turned their hearts away from the Lord. I also watched as many of those same loved ones returned to Jesus with a much deeper understanding of His grace and forgiveness.

Sadly, I became like the older brother in the story of the prodigal son. I had counted up all the times I had “done right” in comparison to the choices of those around me. When things became difficult in my life, I complained that I had a right to blessings because I had been “good.” God quickly showed me that my self-righteousness was just as sinful and filthy before Him as any sin of those around me who had rebelled. The blood of Jesus took on new meaning for me. I saw myself for what I was: a sinner in need of the blood.

All of us must cling to the precious blood of Jesus, which alone saves. Our inheritance is great—not because of anything we have done, but because of what Jesus has done for us.

Father, we thank You for Your Son’s precious blood that covers us. We could never repay You for such a great gift. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Heavenly Attire

“Tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians’”
(Exodus 12:27).

Scripture: Exodus 12:21-28, 50-51

Song: “The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power”

I don't get the chance to dress up for an event very often. One year, however, I was invited to a Christmas celebration downtown in honor of a local politician. I had nothing fancy enough to wear to an event that I knew would require formal attire. It was a friend of mine who came to my rescue and graciously lent me one of her beautiful gowns. Because of her provision, I felt like royalty that night!

When the Lord instructed the Israelites to place the blood over their doorposts, He was letting them know the requirements for the angel of death to pass over their homes. It's a visual of what Jesus would later do for us on the cross. The required covering to enter the kingdom of God is the blood of Jesus (Romans 5:9).

We who are in Christ have been clothed in robes of righteousness. When the Father looks at us, He doesn't see our sin. He sees the righteousness of His Son because Jesus' blood has been applied to our lives. This is our heavenly attire! By this precious covering, we enjoy the blessings of God's kingdom as royal sons and daughters (Revelation 22:14).

Father, I joyfully receive the robes of righteousness You have provided through Your Son. Thank You for the covering of His blood over me. In Jesus' name, amen.

The Nature of God

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people (Psalm 113:7-8).

Scripture: Psalm 113

Song: “O God, You Love the Needy”

As an elementary teacher I am always fascinated by the different personalities of my students. They come into the classroom having their own ways of expressing thoughts and emotions. God has made us each so unique! He sees our unique needs. He sees our places of brokenness. And it is in His very nature to care for and help His needy children.

The nature of something (or someone) is defined by its inherent features, its innate or essential qualities. In Scripture God reveals His nature to us by how He has moved and acted throughout history. As we read the Word, we see God consistently demonstrate that He is a God who sees the needy, is drawn to the brokenhearted, establishes the humble in spirit, and provides for the poor.

The good news is that God does not change. He “is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). This means that as we accept our needy state and bring our brokenness to Him, He will lift us from the ash heap and set us on high in heavenly places with Him. This is a forever promise for all who are God’s children and call on His name.

Father, when I realize I can do nothing and have nothing apart from You, I recognize my need. It is in this place of surrender that You meet me. Thank You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

A Little Yeast

Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:7-8; 10:1-4

Song: “The Bride of Christ”

I love to bake, and in recent years I have learned many new baking skills, including how to bake with yeast. For beginner or pro, it's important to understand how yeast works. Yeast is a living organism, and it's what makes dough rise. It only takes a small amount to work its way through the dough. As the yeast interacts with other ingredients, it stretches and expands the dough. A critical part of the baking process is to cover and place the dough in a warm place while the yeast does its work.

Paul was familiar with this process when he was writing to the Corinthians. He compared yeast to sin and how sin can permeate and corrupt truth, righteousness, and the spiritual life within us. The process of yeast spreading in dough is likened to how sin and wickedness can spread in a Christian community, especially when sin is hidden and covered instead of confessed and forgiven.

Today as believers, we are to remove the “old yeast” of sin to be a like a new batch without “yeast.” This is the good news of the gospel. We are exhorted to remove sin from our lives and be reminded that our true identity is that of “a batch without yeast,” pure and spotless in Christ.

Father, help me be quick to confess and forsake sin, to live in agreement with who I am in Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

My Father's Presence

Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord (Psalm 114:7).

Scripture: Psalm 114

Song: “The Lord Is in His Holy Temple”

My grandfather had a commanding presence. He was a pastor and had a true shepherd's heart. People were drawn to him because of his spirit, and they loved spending time with him because of his wisdom and counsel. Many in the congregation would make appointments, scheduling time to meet and speak with my grandfather privately.

I remember many Saturdays going to the church with my grandparents. I would play on the carpet with my dolls or coloring books while my grandfather worked at his desk, studying his Bible and preparing for the Sunday service. I did not need to make an appointment to see him. I could crawl right up onto his lap whenever I needed.

Many times this image has helped me understand my relationship with my heavenly Father. While He has a commanding presence and is to be respected and held in awe, He also grants me access to His presence anytime, day or night, because of Jesus. I can come without reservation into God's presence for what I need.

Our heavenly Father has made himself available to us, and not just when we need Him; we live and move and have our very being in Him (Acts 17:28). There is rest and security as a child of God, knowing that our Father is always right there next to us at all times.

Father, I thank You that, because of Jesus, I can come before You and You will hear and receive me. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Beautiful Dwelling Place

The people of Israel—the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles—celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy (Ezra 6:16).

Scripture: Ezra 6:13-22

Song: “My Heart, Your Home”

My mom has always loved a good fixer-upper project. We moved many times over the years, and with each new home, my mom made it her own. She learned the tricks of the trade, and it was not long before the walls were freshly painted, floors were beautifully sanded and stained, and rough places became smooth. She knew how to make a house a home.

In the Old Testament, God gave Moses specific instructions for the design of the tabernacle (Exodus 25–31). Moses was to find the most skilled artisans, and no expense was too much for what would be the dwelling place of God among His people.

Today God no longer requires a tabernacle. Rather, we have become His dwelling place (1 Corinthians 3:16). God longs to make His home among His people, and He has done so through the Holy Spirit living in us. When we receive salvation through Jesus, God’s Spirit comes and—we might say—gently smooths the rough places, removes the idols, and opens the windows to let the light in. It’s not always an easy process. Sometimes it is downright painful. But the restoration leads to a beautiful dwelling place in our hearts, one fit for a king.

Father, thank You for making my heart Your home. Have Your way as You tear down and rebuild to make a dwelling place fit for You. In Jesus’ name, amen.