

MONDAY: Invitation to Adoration

Receive this Invitation:

While we have all been living through the incredible disruption of this pandemic, this verse reminds us that we can "Worship and Adore" in many different ways. Since the start of the pandemic, St. Paul has recorded and produced new media every week for families to worship safely at home. Since October we have been holding live worship services at 11 am, using everything we know to ensure our services are as safe as possible. On February 28th, we will also be holding the contemporary service in the fellowship hall at 11 am. On March 28th, we will begin the 8:30 traditional service.

Matthew 18:20 shows us that the adoration of God can happen anywhere. The worship of God is not dependent on our place, our dress, the words that we say or the songs we sing. The adoration and worship of God is in the hearts and minds we lift to God, and in the love that we share in the world. I would ask that all members of St. Paul commit to "Worship and Adore" in some way every week during Lent.

As a musician, I've decided that music can serve to help people "Worship and Adore" because it is mostly a combination of poetry and music. Since poetry affects mainly the intellect and music affects mainly the heart, I think music in the service of worship can help to move both the mind and heart to a more profound adoration. I can't say it better than hymn #68 "When in Our Music God is Glorified"

1. When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried,
Hallelujah!

2. How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
Hallelujah!

3. So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue:
Hallelujah!

4. 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:
Hallelujah!

5. Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Hallelujah! Amen.

(Wayne Martz)

TUESDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

Lord, there is no one like you! For you are great, and your name is full of power.

(Jeremiah 10:6, NLT)

From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.

(John 1:16, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

O how good and sweet you are, Lord Jesus, to the soul who seeks you, Jesus, Redeemer of the captives; Saviour of the lost; Hope of the exiles; Strength of those who labour; Repose of the anxious spirit; dear Solace and sweet Refreshment of the tearful soul who runs toiling after you; Crown of those who conquer; sole Reward and only Joy of the citizens above; full Fountain overflowing with all graces; glorious Offspring of great God; yourself great God. Great God, let all things that are in heaven above and in earth beneath bless you, for you are great and great is your name. O unfading Beauty of the most high God, and purest Brightness of Eternal Light; O Life enlivening all life, O Light enlightening all light, and sustaining in eternal splendour the thousand thousand thousands of lights that blaze before the throne of your divine majesty, on from the distant dawn of their first early shining. O welling Fountain, hidden from mortal sight in the eternal and exhaustless outgushing of your fresh limpid floods, whose springs have no beginning, whose deeps are deep and infinitely deep, whose height attains no limit, whose breadth broadens onwards without limit forever, whose purity is unruffled through eternity! The bosom of unfathomable God pours you forth from the unsearchable abyss of His own profound, Life begetting Life, Light begetting Light, God begetting God, eternal God begetting eternal God, infinite God, God infinite and in all things coequal with Himself. And of your fullness we have all received.

You, too, all-plentiful Spring of every good, priceless Light of sevenfold grace, you, O most merciful Spirit, I implore you to illuminate me by your visitation in times which, by reason of my frailty, I have too feebly grasped the truth of your majesty and grandeur, and whatever of all that I have understood of your divine precepts I have by carnal wantonness failed to esteem. So may I correct what is amiss, and, helped by you, whom, voyaging over this life's sea of perils, I have invoked to my assistance, may I be guided without shipwreck to the harbour of eternal peace. You, too, I ask, all-compassionate Father, that, as you first made me and then remade me by the passion of your only begotten Son, so you would give me to think and love whatever tends to your glory. I am

frail and unequal to my undertaking, but grant me by diligent confession to attain the grace of redemption and salvation. And whatever work I undertake from now on, make it tend altogether, by your grace, through your grace, and in your grace, to only your praise. Keep me from now on from sin, teach me to be more constant and courageous in good works; and so long as I live in this body, let me show myself in some way your servant. And so grant me, after my soul's exit from the flesh, to obtain pardon of all my sins and reap life everlasting. Through Him who with you lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

(Anselm of Canterbury)

React:

How will you engage in adoration today?

WEDNESDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React**Read:**

Read these passages of Scripture.

This is what the Lord says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that? Could you build me such a resting place?"

(Isaiah 66:1, NLT)

You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy.

(Psalm 63:5, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

O Eternal, almighty, and most gracious God, heaven is your throne, and earth is your footstool, holy and revered is your name; you are praised by the heavenly hosts and in the congregation of your saints on earth, and will be sanctified in all that come near unto you. We are sinful and unworthy dust, but being invited by you, are bold, through our blessed Mediator to present ourselves and our supplications before you. Receive us graciously, help us by your Spirit; let your fear be upon us: let your Word come unto us in power, and be received in love, with attentive, reverent, and obedient minds. Make it to us the savour of life unto life. Cause us to be fervent in prayer, and joyful in your praises, and to serve you this day without distraction, that we may find that a day in your courts is better than a thousand, and that it is good for us to draw near to God; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

(Richard Baxter)

React:

How will you engage in adoration today?

THURSDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

Return, O Lord, and rescue me. Save me because of your unfailing love.

(Psalm 6:4, NLT)

May all my enemies be disgraced and terrified. May they suddenly turn back in shame.

(Psalm 6:10, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

O Thou Great Being! what Thou art,
Surpasses me to know;
Yet sure I am, that known to Thee
Are all Thy works below.
Thy creature here before Thee stands,
All wretched and distrest;
Yet sure those ills that wring my soul
Obey Thy high behest.
Sure, Thou, Almighty, canst not act
From cruelty or wrath!
O, free my weary eyes from tears,
Or close them fast in death!
But, if I must afflicted be,
To suit some wise design,
Then man my soul with firm resolves,
To bear and not repine!

(Robert Burns)

React:

How will you engage in adoration today?

FRIDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

(Psalm 100:5, NLT)

The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

(Psalm 145:8, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

You through your operations made manifest the eternal fabric of the world; you, Lord, created the earth. You are faithful in all generations, righteous in judgment, wonderful in strength and majesty, wise in your creation, and prudent in establishing your works, good in the things that are seen, and gracious among those who trust in you.

O merciful and compassionate, forgive us our iniquities, and unrighteousness, and transgressions, and shortcomings. Do not reckon every sin of your servants, but cleanse us with the cleansing of your truth, and guide our steps to walk in holiness of

heart, to do the things which are good and pleasing before you and before our rulers. Lord, make your face to shine upon us in peace for our good so that we may be sheltered by your mighty hand, and delivered from all sin by your uplifted arm, and deliver us from those who hate us wrongfully.

Give concord and peace to us and to all who dwell on the earth, as you gave to our fathers who called on you in holiness with faith and truth, and grant that we may be obedient to your almighty and glorious name, and to our rulers and governors upon the earth. Amen.

(Clement of Rome)

React:

How will you engage in adoration today?

SATURDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good."

(Mark 10:18, NLT)

And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: "Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever."

(Revelation 5:13, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

Almighty, most holy, most high, and supreme God,
highest good, all good, wholly good, who alone are
good. To you we render all praise, all glory, all
thanks, all honor, all blessing, and we shall always
refer all good to you. Amen.

(Francis of Assisi)

React:

How will you engage in adoration today?