

ADORATION BEING MINDFUL OF GOD'S GLORY

We make our beginning in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Dear Lord God, Sanctify us in Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

God has a great desire to talk with us. Our desire to talk with God is the result of His great desire to talk with us. Our desire to pray is one of God's gifts to us. When we feel the nudge to pray, that feeling is a response to God who is at work in our hearts and in our minds. It's the Holy Spirit who triggers our desire to pray to our Heavenly Father who loves us dearly. We can pray about big things, we can pray about small things, because God cares about all things in our life.

Over and over again in Scripture, God urges and encourages us to pray to Him.

Psalm 50:15 Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

Psalm 91:15 When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

Jeremiah 29:12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

When praying, many people find it helpful to use the acronym of ACTS – **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, and **S**upplication. In this Bible study, we will look at God's glory which is connected to giving Him our praise and **A**doration. In the next several Bible studies, we will focus on each of these aspects of prayer. We will look at God's mercy which is connected to the **C**onfession of our sin; we will look at God's blessings which are connected to **T**hanksgiving; we will look at praying for one another which is **S**upplication. Later on, we will look at being mindful of God's continual presence which will help us remember to regularly pray to Him.

Tonight, we will read verses of praise and **A**doration from God's Word, the Bible, and then we will sing verses of praise and **A**doration from our hymnal - the Lutheran Service Book. Except the first song, '**Our God is an Awesome God**', is not from the hymnal. It's a classic song from Vacation Bible School. Even though this song is not in our hymnal, the words are based on Scripture. Before we sing it, we'll look at several Bible verses which refer to our 'awesome' God.

Nehemiah 1:5 And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Daniel 9:4 I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Psalm 66:5 Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. (God Himself is awesome and what He does for us is also awesome!)

Psalm 68:35 Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

When we sing 'Our God is an Awesome God', keep in mind that it is a prayer of **A**doration to God. We'll sing it three times, each time with a different focus or point of view. The first time, we'll sing it as a personal song of **A**doration and praise, with the words **My** God is an Awesome God. We'll sing and pray it with our regular singing voices.

The second time, we'll sing and pray it with strong voices as a united corporate prayer of **A**doration, with the words **Our** God is an Awesome God. But before we sing this song of praise,

let's look at page 208 in our hymnal, Lutheran Service Book. In the liturgy, in Divine Service Settings One, Two, Three, Four and Five, in the Preface to the Service of the Sacrament (Communion), the pastor sings or says, "Lift up your hearts" and we respond by singing or saying "We lift them to the Lord". This word from the pastor and the congregation's response is based on God's Word in **Colossians 3:1-2 NIV** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (This next verse from 1 Timothy also conveys the same idea of worship.) **1 Timothy 2:8 NIV** I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer.

When we sing this song of **A**doration the second time, set your hearts and minds on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. I suggest that we stand, join our hands together and lift them to the Lord in worship, singing and praying with strong voices.

The third time we sing and pray this song, let's sing with soft reverent voices directing our **A**doration and worship to God in prayer with the words, **Dear God, You're an awesome God**. The reason for singing with quiet reverent voices is based on **1 Kings 19:9-12** There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. (And then God spoke with Elijah.)

Now let's sing this song of **A**doration: **Our God is an Awesome God**
(Sing verse one with regular voices)

My God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above,
With wisdom, power and love, **My** God is an awesome God.

(Sing verse two standing up, joining and lifting hands with strong voices)
Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above,
With wisdom, power and love, **Our** God is an awesome God.

(Sing verse three as a prayer to God with quiet reverent voices)
Dear God, You're an awesome God, You reign from heaven above,
With wisdom, power and love, **Dear God, You're** an awesome God.

(This is a favorite VBS song. In the closing service on Thursday evening, the church is full of kids, parents and family. We sing this song several times, the girls and women, then the boys and men, everyone with reverent voices, everyone with strong voices. It's a powerful song of worship and **a**doration to our God.)

Our next hymn of **A**doration is Hymn 803 - Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.

But before we sing this hymn, take a close look at the fine print at the bottom right-hand corner of the page. You'll see that this hymn is based on three passages of Scripture. Now take a close look at the fine print at the bottom right-hand corner of a few other hymns. Notice that every hymn is based on Scripture. Every hymn has a solid foundation of God's truth. Let's look at each of the Bible verses on which this hymn is based:

Psalm 5:11 But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Psalm 8:3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place.

This hymn also brings to mind the joy that is in heaven. And that's found in

Luke 15:7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Our sin hurts God's heart. Because of our sin, we deserve His wrath and punishment. But as God says in **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Each of us is a sinner but each of us has repented and confessed our sin. We confess our sin to God in our personal prayers and we confess our sin together on Sunday in our worship services. So just think, there is joy in heaven because of you!!

Here are a few other verses about the joy that we have right now in Christ.

Nehemiah 8:10 The joy of the LORD is your strength.

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Now let's sing this hymn of Adoration: **Hymn 803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

Our next hymn of Adoration is Hymn 822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring

This hymn is based on four Scripture passages: we will read three of them.

Revelation 19:1 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

Revelation 7:9-17 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Note that Revelation 7:11-12 are printed on the adjoining page in the hymnal.)

Titus 3:4-7 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly

through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

In the Old Testament, God revealed His glory in the tabernacle. When Christ took on flesh, He lived, or 'tabernacled', among His people. God's glory was manifest and displayed in Jesus throughout His entire ministry, but especially in His submission to the cross. God showed His glory through His wonderful deeds of salvation for all people.

Now let's sing this hymn of Adoration: **Hymn 822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring**

Our next hymn of Adoration is Hymn 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Chronicles 16:23-26 Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.
24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
25 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be held in awe above all gods.
26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Psalms 103:1-11 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Psalms 106:48 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

(This next Bible verse especially fits the third verse of this hymn.)

Psalms 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Now let's sing this hymn of Adoration: **Hymn 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

CLOSING PRAYER:

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of Your glory! O great and awesome God, you are full of grace and truth. We give you thanks and we praise your glorious name. We praise You for Your greatness and power, your glory and majesty. Great is your love, for it reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Thank you that you have poured out your love into our hearts. Work within our spirit and our hearts so that everything we do is done for your glory. Thank you that you meet all our needs according to your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Thank you that our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs our earthly troubles. Thank you that you have provided purification for our sins, and that you are now sitting down at the right hand of God in heaven. Help us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you that you are able to keep us from falling and that you will present us before our heavenly Father's glorious presence without fault and with great joy. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever! Amen.