

# **Prepare Yourself for Worship**

**Prayers & Hymns**

**with  
A Christ-centered Year**

**Ken Bible**

**LNW*books*.com**

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## **Introduction**

*PREPARE YOURSELF FOR WORSHIP* was created to prepare our hearts and minds for Sunday worship. Its fifty-two prayers, a year's worth, help tune our thoughts to God and His purposes for our gatherings. Begin worship by turning to Him Saturday evening or early Sunday morning with a prayer and a hymn. They will nurture your desire to know Him, trust Him, and love Him more deeply, actively, and constantly.

Thirty-six of the prayers are non-seasonal, while sixteen are for special days and seasons throughout the Christian year.

Each prayer is followed by an original hymn text that enriches the impact of the prayer. The hymns are meaningful if simply read devotionally. But the hymn may also be heard or sung by clicking on the link below the title of the hymn. It is a link to that hymn's page on [LNWhymns.com](http://LNWhymns.com), where you'll find a recording of the hymn – just click the arrow under “Listen” in the upper right-hand portion of the page. You'll also find a printed version of the music. Everything there is free, including downloads of all printed hymns and recordings.

At the back of the book is a bonus feature, “A Christ-centered Year”. It is a set of readings that remind us that Jesus Christ is the focus of the entire Christian year. Every special day and every season point to Him.

May God bless your desire to worship Him! Glory to our magnificent God!

Ken Bible

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## **Prepare for Worship**

Worship is like every other activity:

we reap what we sow.

Our relationship with God is like every other relationship:

we get out of it what we put into it.

Worship is so much more real and meaningful  
when I come prepared to worship Him as He deserves to be worshiped:  
with my thoughts and desires turned to Him.

*You shall love the Lord Your God  
with all your heart, and  
with all your soul, and  
with all your mind.  
This is the great and foremost commandment.  
(Matthew 22:37-38, NASB)*

So much of my life I've come to Sunday worship distracted.  
I've gone through the motions,  
but my heart and mind were far away.  
As I asked God for His forgiveness and help,  
He prompted me to begin preparing myself for Sunday worship.  
On Saturday night or Sunday morning I've begun to  
consciously turn my mind and heart to Him.

The prayers He has given me are recorded here,  
with the hope that they will help you turn to God as well.  
Each prayer concludes with a hymn.

*Father, You want me to know You better,  
and You say that I can know You better  
through a more wholehearted participation in public worship.  
I want what You want:  
I want to know You.  
I want a closer, more constant relationship with You.  
Teach me, Father.  
I am listening.*

## **Prepare Us** (Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Prepare us for the Living Christ.  
Prepare us as we listen, Lord.  
Our hearts and lives receive Your Word.  
Prepare us, Lord.  
Prepare us, Lord.

Prepare us as Your temple here.  
Prepare us by Your holy breath.  
Pour out Your love, Your life, Your death.  
Prepare us, Lord.  
Prepare us, Lord.

Great God of loving unity,  
Our Father, Spirit, Holy Son,  
In You we long to live as one.  
Prepare us, Lord.  
Prepare us, Lord.

## **My Mind Is Yours**

Father,  
Creator,  
Redeemer,  
You have called me here before You,  
    face to face.  
As I come,  
    draw my thoughts to You alone.  
You are God.  
You are wisdom.  
You are right and  
    good and  
    all-in-all.

As I come, Lord,  
    my mind is Yours.  
Fill it with Your light,  
    Your truth,  
    Yourself.

## **My Mind Is Yours**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

My mind is Yours.  
My thoughts are Yours.  
My heart, my hands, my strength are Yours.  
Today is Yours.  
This moment Yours.  
Lord, be Yourself in me.



## **My Heart Is Yours**

Father, You are all that is good,  
all that is holy,  
all that is lasting,  
all that is life.  
As I turn to You now,  
draw all my desires to Yourself alone.

Burn away every other desire,  
every other yearning,  
every other hope,  
every other ambition.  
Burn them away with the light of  
Your beauty,  
Your unbounded goodness, and  
Your complete sufficiency.

Forgive my foolish wandering.  
My heart is Yours alone.  
All I want is You.

## **An Undivided Heart**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

An undivided heart,  
Seeking only You;  
An undivided life,  
Walking in the truth.  
By Your Holy Spirit,  
Jesus, now renew  
My undivided heart for You.

When temptation looks my way  
Or when pride has found a place,  
When I'm pressured, help me turn  
And simply pray.

*Prepare Yourself for Worship, p.10*

An undivided heart,  
Seeking only You;  
An undivided life,  
Walking in the truth.  
By Your Holy Spirit,  
Jesus, now renew  
My undivided heart for You.

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## **My Hands Are Yours**

Worship is more than words.  
Worship is placing You, Lord, on the throne of  
my life and of  
all reality.

Thus worship is action.  
Worship is obedience.  
Worship is service.  
Worship is sacrifice.

Father, as I bow before You in worship,  
my hands are Yours.  
My strength is Yours.  
I present my body as a living sacrifice,  
holy,  
separated entirely to You,  
tuned to Your will,  
transformed by Your Spirit,  
wholly pleasing to You,  
wholly available to You.

## **God Alone**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

God alone, my Lord Creator,  
Spring from whom all being flows,  
God my breath, my life, my Father,  
From Your love my future grows.  
God alone, my great Redeemer,  
By Your heart and mighty hand  
I'm alive and free and singing  
As I near the promised land.

God alone, each thought within me,  
All my will and mind and heart,  
Longs to lift and praise and love You

With my life and all its art.  
God alone, this human creature,  
All You shaped and then restored,  
Rises up to fully worship  
And to glorify its Lord.

God alone, Love Overflowing,  
All I have and all I am,  
All I dream and touch and manage,  
All I do and all I plan,  
All my wealth and words and actions,  
Each tomorrow now unknown,  
Lord, I gladly, wholly give them  
All for love of You alone!

## **Prepare Your Body for Worship**

Father, help me prepare my body for worship.

I am a physical being, and  
the state of my body affects  
my mood and  
my alertness.

I will do my best to get a good night's sleep.

Bless my efforts, Lord.

I will do my best to eat the right foods.

Bless my efforts,  
to Your glory.

All this is part of offering my body as a sacrifice to You,  
living,  
holy,  
pleasing.

Guide and bless me as

I prepare my body for worship.

## **Nothing Between**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Nothing between my soul and the Savior,  
None of this world's delusions and dreams;  
I have renounced all sin and its pleasures.  
Jesus is mine. There's nothing between.

#### *Refrain:*

Nothing between my soul and the Savior,  
So that His blessed face may be seen;  
Nothing preventing the flow of His favor,  
Keep the way clear. Let nothing between.

Nothing between, not life and its treasures;  
Habits and hopes, though harmless they seem,

Must not distract from Jesus our Savior.  
He is my joy. There's nothing between.

Nothing between through years and through trials;  
Though trouble comes, my heart is serene,  
Nearing the day I stand in His beauty,  
One with my Lord and nothing between.

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## **This Time Is Yours**

Father, in these moments of worship, help me to be  
fully present,  
fully with You,  
fully Yours.

May my life of complete consecration to You  
begin right now.

You hear my heart as I  
speak the total surrender that  
I long to be true.

You know that no matter how pure my intentions,  
I can only live one moment at a time.  
This is the only time that is truly mine, and  
Lord, I give it to You.

Make my desires,  
my thoughts,  
my energies  
all Yours,  
beginning right now.

Speak.  
I am listening.

Command.  
I wait to obey.

Lead.  
I gladly follow.

## **Holy in You**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

May this day be holy in You,  
in You, in You.  
Have Your way, my Father, in all I do.  
May this day be holy in You.  
Holy, holy Lord!  
Holy, Lord, in You!  
Every moment, every breath,  
May this day be holy in You.

Make my heart a temple of prayer  
in You, in You.  
May the needs of others be lifted there.  
Make my heart a temple of prayer.  
Holy, holy Lord!  
Holy, Lord, in You!  
Every moment, every breath,  
Make my heart a temple of prayer.

Give my life the fragrance of love  
in You, in You.  
Make my spirit gentle like Yours above.  
Give my life the fragrance of love.  
Holy, holy Lord!  
Holy, Lord, in You!  
Every moment, every breath,  
Give my life the fragrance of love.  
Holy, Lord, in You!



## In Spirit and Truth

*The woman said to Him...“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”*

*Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father...An hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:20-24, NASB)*

Father, You are Spirit.

The worship that pleases You is  
my spirit to Yours.

Worshiping You does not depend on  
ceremony or style, on  
rituals or prescribed motions.

You want worship that is honest, sincere, and unhypocritical,  
with no gap between my words and my actions.

You seek worship that rises from my heart and my life,  
not just from my lips.

That is the worship I want to bring You, my Father.

I want my Sunday worship to simply rehearse the way I live  
all week long.

## Holy Father, Only You

(Hymn)

### [Recording & Printed Music](#)

Holy Father, I desire  
Only You, only You  
Every moment, every step,  
Every dream, all I do.  
In the Spirit of Christ  
I am empty and trusting.  
Holy Father, You are love.  
Hear my prayer: only You.

Every silence, every song,  
Living God, only You;  
Every shadow, every light,  
Every truth I pursue,  
Every blessing and joy,  
Every longing unspoken,  
Every hunger, every hope,  
Lord of all, only You.

Lord, You see me as I am,  
Needing You, only You,  
With my failures all exposed,  
With my weakness in view.  
As a child I look up,  
All at peace in Your promise.  
Holy Father, Loving Lord,  
Sovereign God, only You!

## **When We Worship**

Almighty, Sovereign God,  
when I worship You from my heart, I recognize  
    You for who You are, and  
    myself for who I am.  
You are all goodness and the only source of all goodness.  
You alone are life,  
    truth,  
    rightness,  
    holiness,  
    beauty,  
    wisdom, and  
    love.  
Without You, I am empty,  
    nothing,  
    weakness and need.

When I worship You,  
I embrace the truth.  
I admit reality and  
    align myself with it.  
I align myself with You, in all  
    humility,  
    trust, and  
    gratitude.

When I worship, I admit that  
You are the Creator, and  
I am your creature,  
    born of Your deep love,  
    made in Your image.  
You are Father of all, and  
    I am Your little child.  
You are the holy yet human Son,  
God made flesh, and  
I joyfully wonder at the mystery.  
    You became entirely like me, so that I might become  
    entirely like You!  
You are the Holy Spirit,  
    the life of God,  
    the love of God, and  
    the power of God,

ever among us and within us.  
You are filling us even now, enabling us to  
live like Christ and  
love like Christ.

Praise to You, Eternal Father,  
Christ the Son, and  
Holy Spirit!  
Praise to You for all You are!

## **Worship Father, Son, and Spirit**

(Hymn, inspired by the Te Deum Laudamus)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Father Creator,  
Power unbounded,  
Source of all being, all-transcending, sovereign God!  
Heaven exalts You!  
Lord, we exalt You,  
Holy, holy, holy, our Truth, our Light, our Life!  
Holy, holy, holy, our Truth, our Light, our Life!

Word of the Father,  
Holy and human,  
Only-begotten Son of God and Son of Man,  
Born as our Savior,  
Died as our Savior,  
Risen to the Father, our Lamb, our Priest, our King!  
Risen to the Father, our Lamb, our Priest, our King!

Breath of the Father,  
Spirit of Jesus,  
Come in Your fullness, make us ever all Your own,  
One with the Father,  
One in Christ Jesus,  
One in perfect union, one heart, one life, one love!  
One in perfect union, one heart, one life, one love!

## **God of All**

God of all reality...

God of all time and  
all eternity, of  
all that has been,  
all that is, and  
all that will be...

God of every wonder ever seen,  
every truth ever known,  
every mystery ever pondered,  
every good ever desired  
and so much that is beyond imagining...

You are the One who calls to me.  
You are the One who calls me to Yourself.  
You are the One who offers me  
full knowing and  
unbroken fellowship with You.

How can a creature like me respond to such an offer?  
All I can do is bow to You  
here and now,  
and simply say,  
"Here I am."

## **God of the Universe**

(Hymn)

[Recording & Printed Music](#)

God of the universe,  
God of eternity,  
God of glory yet unseen,  
God of beauty,  
God of mystery,  
God of all that will be,  
In this time and place,

*Prepare Yourself for Worship, p.22*

By Your timeless grace,  
With Your holiness in view,  
You who give Yourself to me,  
Though unworthy, I receive and  
I worship You.

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## **God Far and Near**

Infinite God,  
You come to me from  
    far beyond and  
    high above my knowing.

You display Yourself,  
You flaunt Yourself,  
You parade Yourself  
    through this physical world all around me.  
You help me  
    glimpse You and  
    experience You and  
    begin to know You  
through the senses You have given.

Infinite God,  
personal God,  
You come to me  
    in Jesus Christ,  
    in skin and fragile flesh and bone.  
You make Yourself just like me.  
You even call Yourself my Father.  
You come to invite me,  
    to draw me,  
    to bless me back to Yourself.

Transcendent God,  
present God,  
personal God,  
God so high above yet  
    inseparably close to me,  
I turn to You now in simple response,  
    in desire,  
    in hope,  
    in surrender.

## **My Loving Father** (Hymn)

### [Recording & Printed Music](#)

Beyond where eyes and thoughts can reach,  
You are there, my Father.  
Where truth transcends all human speech,  
You are there, my Father.  
We strive to learn and boldly climb,  
Yearning to discover,  
But far above all space and time,  
You are there, my Father.

This world of wonder sings of You  
Here and now, my Father.  
You share Yourself through all You do  
Here and now, my Father.  
You overflow all we can see,  
Vast beyond all measure,  
But face-to-face You come to me  
Here and now, my Father.

The life of Jesus sings of You,  
O my loving Father!  
His Spirit proves each promise true,  
O my loving Father!  
I touch Your face in simple prayer,  
You, my joy, my treasure!  
I sing with every breath we share,  
"O my loving Father!"



## **Seeing a Greater God**

Even after many years of following You, Father,  
much of my life makes no sense in light of  
    who You are.

You are perfect power,  
    perfect wisdom, and  
    perfect love.

Yet the faith I live is so weak.

My thoughts and actions proclaim a God who is  
    only a vague shadow of You,  
a God who is  
    limited and  
    unreliable.

So much of me is still unmolded by the truth of  
    all You are.

My daily walk is clouded by  
    ignorance,  
    fear, and  
    self-centeredness.

Almighty Father, I long to know You in a way that is  
    all-transforming.

I want to respond to You  
    always,  
    constantly,  
    for all You are.

I hunger to think and speak and walk  
    each moment  
    in the light of Your full greatness.

Continue to draw me to Yourself.

Through  
    prayer,  
    Your Word, and  
    Your loving discipline, Father,  
help me to  
    see You more clearly and  
    trust You more simply.

## **High and Holy Sovereign God**

(Hymn)

### [Recording & Printed Music](#)

All existence flows from You,  
High and holy Sovereign God.  
Greatness, goodness, pure and true,  
High and holy Sovereign God!  
All-transcending Source and Goal,  
Mighty God, our Father!  
All is peace in Your control,  
High and holy Sovereign God.

Who can harm us in Your hand,  
High and holy Sovereign God?  
Who can block what Grace has planned,  
High and holy Sovereign God?  
Who can part us from Your love,  
Mighty God, our Father?  
None below and none above,  
High and holy Sovereign God!

Fill our vision day by day,  
High and holy Sovereign God!  
Fill and rule this house of clay,  
High and holy Sovereign God!  
Lift our small and fearful hearts,  
Mighty God, our Father!  
Fill our faith with all You are,  
High and holy Sovereign God!

## **When I Worship You**

Father, when I worship You, I simply, honestly acknowledge Your reality.

You are, and

You are who You say You are.

When I worship You, I acknowledge

what You have done and what You are doing.

Worship doesn't require advanced intelligence or complex reasoning.

When I worship, I am responding in simple faith

to You and to the truth about You:

You are the Creator.

All that is flows from You.

I flow from You, my Father.

You are eternal.

You envelop all time,

all the past, present, and future.

You are the First and Last, the Beginning and the End and

everything in-between.

You are All-in-all.

You are holy.

You are pure, and

You are transcendent.

You are separate, high above everything and everyone else.

You are our Redeemer,

our Savior,

our Sacrifice.

Father, when I worship You,

I am drawn deeper and deeper into Your magnificence.

When I focus on You,

I think and talk less about myself and

more about You.

And Father, worship is contagious.

As we worship, we draw each other into that worship.

Worship will crescendo until

one day it envelops all creation (Revelation 5:8-14).

## Revelation Worship

(Hymn)

\*DIVISIONS OPTIONAL: Sing responsively, antiphonally, or all together

### Recording & Printed Music

*\*All*            Eternal God, Creator Lord,  
Perfect in power, revered, adored,  
*\*Group 1*        The First and Last,  
*\*Group 2*        First and Last,  
*\*Group 1*        Holy God!  
*\*Group 2*        Holy God!  
*\*All*            Almighty Father, Sovereign Son,  
Spirit unbounded, Three-in-one!

*\*All*            Worthy the Lamb for sinners slain!  
Emptied for us, You rose to reign  
*\*Group 1*        The King of Kings,  
*\*Group 2*        King of Kings,  
*\*Group 1*        Lord of Lords,  
*\*Group 2*        Lord of Lords!  
*\*All*            Almighty Father, Sovereign Son,  
Spirit unbounded, Three-in-one!

*\*All*            Savior and Lord on heaven's throne,  
Holy and just, to You alone  
*\*Group 1*        Be endless praise,  
*\*Group 2*        Endless praise.  
*\*Group 1*        Come and reign,  
*\*Group 2*        Come and reign,  
*\*All*            Almighty Father, Sovereign Son,  
Spirit unbounded, Three-in-one!

## **Father, Receive My Gift**

Father, You are beyond all need.  
You are full to overflowing.  
All that is flows from You and  
    is forever nourished by You.  
Your nature, Your joy is  
    to give,  
    to share,  
    to bless.

Your resources are endless, and  
    Your authority is complete.  
You simply speak, and it is so.  
Your will is the power that fuels all reality.  
Your love is the music that makes the universe dance.

You are not impressed by our material gifts.  
You are like a great-hearted king  
    to whom a child joyfully, lovingly brings a penny.  
The penny is worthless.  
The love is priceless.

Father, my Father,  
that's what I want to give You:  
    I want to daily bring You my love.  
Like the alabaster perfume,  
    like the widow's mite,  
I want my life to be a gift of love,  
    worthless to the world, but  
    priceless to my loving Father.

Let all my "accomplishments" be like  
    a child's drawing.  
Receive the love they express, Father.  
Receive the worship,  
    simple but sincere.  
Receive the gift  
    because it is all I have.  
I offer it joyfully, thankfully to You.

## **As Simply as a Child** (Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

God above, beyond all need,  
Great and good in word and deed,  
When You spoke, it came to be,  
All I am and all I see.

#### *Refrain:*

Father, I praise You,  
Father, I trust You,  
Father, I love You  
As simply as a child.

Nothing I can ever do  
Can enrich or add to You.  
You from whom all worlds proceed  
Have no hunger, have no need.

Not with wealth or grand career,  
Poor, imperfect, yet sincere,  
I would thank You, Lord, but how?  
Empty-handed here I bow.

## **Living Praise**

Omnipotent Father  
    worthy of all praise,  
we worship You most eloquently,  
    not by what we say,  
but by  
    what we do and  
    who we are.

You created us for this purpose.  
You redeemed us and  
    transformed us sinners into brand new creatures.  
You did this so that others,  
    in realms and ages far beyond our own,  
might wonder at  
    the glory of Your grace (Ephesians 1:5-6, 12),  
    the riches of Your kindness (Ephesians 2:7), and  
    Your amazing, many-sided wisdom (Ephesians 3:8-11).  
You made us who we are  
to show others just how  
    great and  
    good and  
    gracious You are.

O Father,  
    I want to praise You that way!  
    I want to glorify You that way!  
I want others to  
    see me and  
    worship You.

Help me to praise You that way  
    today,  
    among Your people.  
And as we worship together,  
prepare me to glorify You  
    all week long.

## **Make My Life a Holy Fragrance** (Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Make my life a holy fragrance  
Poured out every morning new,  
Like that alabaster worship,  
An offering pleasing to You.

*Refrain:*

Father, use me for Your glory,  
To show the world Your goodness and Your glory,  
Ever only for Your glory,  
That all may know all You are!

Just a seed, my Father, plant me.  
Let me die and life begin,  
Life abundant in Christ Jesus,  
Now rich and fruitful in Him.

Father, grow me in Christ Jesus,  
All I say and all I do,  
Every gift Your love has lent me  
Forever offered to You.



## **Father, We Need You**

Father, our needs drive us to You.

We need to see Your greatness.

We need to see You in all Your magnificence.

For without seeing You,

we lose perspective and

quickly get out of focus.

Our thoughts are overwhelmed by the twin evils of

fear and

pride.

We need Your wisdom.

In our eyes,

the present is deeply distorted, and

the future is complete darkness.

We need Your light.

We need Your holiness.

We are too weak to even desire what is right,

much less attain it.

But most of all, Holy Father,

we need You.

We gather because

we need You.

We need You with us,

within us,

leading us,

enfolding us,

uplifting us.

We gather with our Christian brothers and sisters,

because through them, we hope to sense

Your smile,

Your touch,

Your teaching,

Your fellowship,

Your encouragement.

Merciful Father, be near.

We need You.

## **We Need You, Holy God**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

We need You, holy God,  
In all we think and do.  
We need Your holy breath  
Each moment flowing through.  
Transcendent Lord, our flesh and bone  
Is crying out for You alone!

Your wisdom, strength, and love,  
Your constancy and peace,  
The glories of Your grace  
And all their sweet release –  
Beyond these gifts, still unexplored,  
Our greater need is You, O Lord!

Your pure and perfect Son  
In pure and perfect need,  
Through emptiness complete  
Was always full indeed.  
Lord, breathe His faith through all we do  
And share His boundless life in You!

## **Worshipping in the Darkness**

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil, for You are with me. (Psalm 23:4, NASB)*

Father, sometimes all I can do is  
    worship You in the darkness.  
Sometimes, whether from  
    sickness,  
    sorrow, or  
    moods I can't control or understand,  
I can't sense Your presence.  
I can't feel Your love.  
I can't see You working.  
I can't span the distance between us.

You offer no explanations.  
You seem silent,  
    unconcerned,  
    gone.

But God, I know You are my Father.  
I know You are always good.  
I know You are always here, even when I can't  
    see You or  
    feel You.

So even when the darkness engulfs me,  
I will remember who You are, and  
I will worship You,  
    praise You, and  
    trust You.

## **God Is Great, and God Is Good** (Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

*Refrain:*

God is great, and God is good  
Beyond what we have understood.  
The Hand that gives the sparrow food  
Is always in control and always good.

When the enemy is mighty and  
when mountains block the way,  
when my life is filled with shadows  
and with fears I cannot name,  
though His steps are like the thunder,  
He is tender with my pain.  
Sometimes He sends a storm of love,  
sometimes a gentle rain.

Far beyond imagination,  
far above all I can see,  
He is grand beyond all measure,  
filling all eternity.  
In my smallness and my weakness,  
in my fearfulness and pain,  
I'll praise Him in the darkness  
till the light returns again.

## **Thoroughly Present**

Father, You are thoroughly present with Your worshiping people.

You are the Source of all,

forever sustaining

all life and

all reality.

Yet You lavish Your focused attention on us

as on a loved one whose

presence and affection are deeply treasured.

You lean toward us,

hungrily drinking in our

every word,

every concern,

every desire.

When we gather in worship,

You are thoroughly present with me, Almighty God.

Help me to be thoroughly present with You,

fully invested in

every song,

every hope,

every word.

Fill my mind with Your truth,

my heart with the music of prayer, and

my mouth with exultant praise.

You give all Yourself to me.

Help me give all myself to You.

## **My Mind Will Be Your Holy Place**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

My mind will be Your holy place,

A home for truth, a house of praise.

I'll bring no sin before Your face,

O Holy God, my Loving Lord!

My heart will be a house of prayer  
Where faith and worship fill the air,  
A joyful place that we can share,  
O Holy God, my Loving Lord!

Come fill Your temple, Glorious Lord!  
Your presence be my heart's reward!

My mind will be Your holy place,  
A home for truth, a house of praise.  
I'll bring no sin before Your face,  
O Holy God, my Loving Lord!

## **As You Lead**

Father, as we prepare to gather for worship,  
prepare each of us to act as You lead.

We want to glorify You.  
We want to bless  
    Your people in  
    Your name.

Speak, Lord.  
Prod us.  
Use us as pleases you.

Help us to listen for Your still small voice in  
    the big things and  
    the small things.

Fill our routines with new meaning  
as we pay new attention to  
    Your Word and  
    Your Spirit.

When You prompt us in unexpected ways, Father,  
    may we obey.

By our obedience, we know You will make today's gathering of Your people  
    all You want it to be.

That is what we want too, Lord.  
Use us today.

## **Speak Your Word, My Father**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Speak Your Word, my Father,  
Speak Your Word through me.  
Quiet all my struggle.  
Let Your Spirit lead.  
You are perfect wisdom.  
You know every heart.  
As I trust and follow,

I will play my part.  
Speak Your Word, my Father,  
Speak Your Word through me.  
Quiet all my struggle.  
Let Your Spirit lead.

Help me hear Your whispers,  
Help me know Your best,  
When to press with courage,  
When to wait and rest,  
Moving to Your rhythms  
In Your Spirit's ease,  
Lightly as a feather  
Floating on a breeze.  
Help me hear Your whispers,  
Help me know Your best,  
When to press with courage,  
When to wait and rest.

You are grace and goodness,  
You are all I seek,  
You the loving wisdom  
I would always speak.  
Make my whole ambition  
Not the things I do,  
But Yourself, my Father,  
Always only You.  
You are grace and goodness,  
You are all I seek,  
You the loving wisdom  
I would always speak.



## **Together**

Father, when I come to Your house to worship,  
I never come alone.  
I come as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, all of us  
redeemed by His blood and  
united by His Spirit.  
I come as part of the universal People of God  
spanning all ages and nations.

Together, we come as Your temple,  
Your holy dwelling place.  
You are building us as a living, breathing, eternal home for Yourself,  
reflecting,  
exuding, and  
incarnating Your magnificence.

Together, we are the Body of Christ.  
He is our Head.  
We are His hands and feet,  
privileged and empowered to act out  
His boundless love here on earth.

Together, we are the Bride of Christ,  
devoted to Him alone  
body, mind, and spirit.  
He has set us apart for Himself, and  
our destiny is an eternity of joyful oneness with Him.

Father, when I come to You in worship,  
I come together with all Your people,  
in Your Spirit,  
through Your Holy Son.

## **We Have Come, God's Living Temple** (Hymn)

### [Recording & Printed Music](#)

We have come, God's living temple,  
In the joy of Christ the Son.  
Here the Father's word is spoken.  
Here His gracious work is done.  
Breathe His Spirit! Drink His goodness!  
Heaven's life is here begun.

Set aside all vain distractions.  
Lay your needs before His throne.  
Give your hands, a holy offering.  
You are His and not your own.  
All your spirit praise His Spirit!  
Turn your thoughts to Him alone.

Christ is God's eternal temple,  
All His holy presence here.  
By His Spirit, we His body  
Live to make His presence clear,  
Loving, learning, giving, growing  
Till our Lord Himself appear.

Go and shine with God's own presence!  
Live the love of Christ the Son.  
By your words let Him be spoken,  
By your hands His work be done.  
Breathe His Spirit, share his goodness  
Till His glorious Kingdom come!

## **Your Chosen People**

All-wise Father, You have chosen to reveal Yourself to me through  
    other people,  
    other believers,  
deeply flawed as they are.

Through them, You teach me and  
    give me the privilege of teaching.

You encourage me and  
    give me the chance to encourage others.

You love me with  
    a human touch and  
    a human word  
and give me the opportunity to love others the same way.

You enable me to  
    be who You want me to be and  
    enjoy all You want me to enjoy  
through these  
    precious,  
    imperfect,  
    colorful,  
    wildly unpredictable, and  
    thoroughly human people all around me.

Father, help me to  
    always listen and  
    always speak to them  
with  
    gentleness,  
    love,  
    humility, and  
    gratitude.

## **Philippians 2:1-8**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Thank You for the truth of Christ  
Spoken through His servants here.  
Thank You for these lives of love,  
Growing faith, replacing fear.

*Refrain:*

Holy Father, in Your goodness,  
Give the mind of our Savior,  
All His Spirit, all His love.  
Make us one in Christ!

Cleanse our hearts and search our ways.  
Free us from our petty pride.  
Make us all we are in Him:  
All one body, all His bride.

## **You Are My Defining Reality**

Father, when Your people were traveling through the wilderness,  
out of bondage and toward the promised land,  
they were engulfed in need of every kind.  
The basic necessities of life were a constant concern.

But with all those needs pressing,  
You devoted the entire tribe of Levi – the Levites –  
to Your service alone.  
Their duties were varied:  
They cared for the tabernacle and its furnishings.  
They assisted the priests, taught Your law, and acted as local judges.

In setting them apart to Yourself, You made it clear that  
You cared deeply about the worship life of Your people.  
Their living relationship with You –  
their Creator,  
their Source, and  
their Savior –  
was the key to their existence.  
Trusting You and  
worshiping You for all You are  
was the key to that relationship.

Father, my relationship with You is  
the breath of my existence as well.  
You are my Creator.  
You are my Source.  
You are the defining reality of my life.  
You are my entire reason for being.

Father, as I gather with Your people,  
help me give You all the attention,  
all the trust,  
all the worship that You deserve.  
You are my God.  
Help me to wholeheartedly worship You as my God today.

## **Great Lord of All Reality** (Hymn)

### [Recording & Printed Music](#)

Great Lord of all reality,  
Your sovereign will is sure.  
When earth and sea and sky are gone,  
Your purpose will endure.  
When other plans have run their course  
And every star grown dim,  
Your Son will be the only Light,  
And we will shine in Him.

The rantings of the proud and blind  
Will rise and quickly fade,  
But we will join the endless song  
Of all that Love has made.  
So many seek and fail and die  
And never glimpse the truth,  
The way, the truth, the life, O God,  
We only find in You.

So now, in all this daily rush,  
I stop and fold my hands,  
Rehearsing here the simple faith  
Reality demands.  
Let all my life be harmony  
With all I know is true,  
And every longing come to rest  
Forever full in You.

## **Wholehearted Support**

*1 Chronicles 29:1-9*

King David had deeply desired to build a temple for You, Father,  
but You told him he was not Your person for the job.  
His son, Solomon, would build the temple.

David didn't sulk.  
He didn't complain.  
He did everything he could to help Solomon prepare for this enormous task.  
He supported Solomon wholeheartedly with all his  
creative energy,  
his resources,  
his contacts,  
his influence, and  
his enthusiasm.  
He poured himself as completely into his support position  
as he would have into the leadership position.

Father, as we gather to worship, help me to  
enthusiastically,  
wholeheartedly  
support those You have chosen for leadership.  
Help me to get behind them with all the  
help,  
prayer, and  
joyful involvement  
that I owe You,  
my Creator,  
my Redeemer, and  
my Lord.

## **We Will Be Your People**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

We will be Your people –  
We have made the choice.  
We will be Your Body,  
Heart and soul and voice.

We will be Your presence;  
We will be Your hands,  
Always gladly giving  
All that love demands.

We will be Your people,  
We will trust Your Word.  
Fear is not our master;  
Comfort is not Lord.  
We will lay behind us  
All that weighs us down,  
Run the race with courage  
Till we share Your crown.

We will be Your people;  
You will be our God.  
You will go before us  
As we sow the Word.  
You will give a harvest  
Time cannot destroy.  
Planting lives of service,  
We will reap Your joy.



## **Help Me Remember**

Father, as I gather  
in Your presence  
with Your people,  
I may be tempted to become  
negative or critical,  
impatient or unkind.

Help me remember  
Who You are, Father.  
You are the compassionate God,  
the Lord of all mercies.  
You loved me,  
sought me, and  
forgave me  
when I was far away,  
ignorant,  
completely corrupt, and  
totally unworthy.

And Father, help me remember  
who I am.  
I am nothing without Your mercies every moment.  
Nothing, Lord.  
I am deeply,  
completely,  
constantly  
dependent on  
Your patience and  
Your untiring forgiveness.

Help me also remember  
who they are.  
They are as needy as me,  
as dependent on Your mercy as I am,  
as helpless without Your tender compassion.  
They are the ones for whom  
You sacrificed Your precious Son.  
They are Your glorious work in progress –  
You are so proud of them!  
They are Your treasured possession.

Father, today may  
    my only thought,  
    my only word  
be Your pure love.

## **How Precious Are Your People** (Hymn)

### [Recording & Printed Music](#)

How precious are Your people,  
Your people, dear Jesus.  
How lovely is Your bride, Lord -  
This family of faith.  
Though only two or three are here,  
You come to serve Your grace.  
You breathe Your love through each and all  
And speak it face to face.  
How precious are Your chosen,  
Your sisters, Your brothers.  
How precious are Your people -  
This family of faith.

You're moving now to touch us,  
To teach us, to draw us.  
You're speaking now to bless us,  
This family of faith.  
O Jesus, Lord, we lift our hands  
And raise our needy hearts.  
Be glorified in all we do  
As each one plays a part.  
How dear is every person,  
The young ones, the old ones.  
How precious are Your people -  
This family of faith.

## **Undistracted Love**

*Romans 15:7*

Father, when we gather before You,  
You are not distracted by  
    our imperfect personalities,  
    our musical tastes, or  
    our annoying human flaws.  
You love us.  
Everything You are yearns for our best,  
    not for Your own comfort or pleasure.  
You welcome us as we are.

Father, I am an imperfect person  
    gathered in the midst of other imperfect persons.  
Give me Your heart for them,  
    Your patience,  
    Your selflessness,  
    Your undistracted love.  
May I worship You by  
    embracing them wholeheartedly  
    as You have embraced me.

## **In Simple Response to You**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

God of wholehearted love,  
Selfless in all You do,  
Help me to love with all I am  
In simple response to You.

God of unfailing grace,  
Patient in all You do,  
Help me forbear, forgive, and bless  
In simple response to You.

Give me the mind of Christ.  
Show Him through all I do!  
May every thought and word arise  
In simple response to You.

Caught in the grip of need,  
Helpless, oppressed, pursued,  
I am Your child. I trust and wait  
In simple response to You.

Lord, though I suffer wrong,  
Though other joys are few,  
This is my prize: to live and die  
In simple response to You.

## **As I Sit among Your People**

Father, when I next sit in the worship service,  
surrounded by Your people,  
    give me Your eyes,  
    give me Your heart for them.

Move me as Jesus was moved by  
    their fears,  
    their needs,  
    their pain,  
    their struggles,  
    their grief.

Awaken me to them, Lord.

Move me  
    to pray,  
    to encourage,  
    to lend a helping hand,  
    to minister to their sorrow through my caring presence.

As I sit among Your people,  
give me the  
    heart and  
    words and  
    overflowing generosity of Jesus.

## **Prayer of Intercession**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Father, my Father, how dearly You love them!  
You long to prove how good You can be.  
Nourish their faith till they blossom and flourish,  
Growing in You,  
Fruitful in You,  
Rooted, but truly free.

Fill all they are with the Spirit of Jesus.  
Teach and correct, reshape and renew.  
Pour out Your wisdom, Your blessing, Your power.  
Grow them in love,  
Your holy love.  
Lord, make them rich in You!

## **Each Person in Christ**

Father, You inspire me with this vision;  
You lift my eyes toward this possibility:  
each person around me,  
each person I know and love  
    fully in Christ,  
    trusting in Christ,  
    loving in Christ,  
    holy in Christ,  
    joyful, free, and at peace in Christ,  
    whole and forever one with Christ.

Father, how thrilling a thought!  
Stirred by You,  
    I imagine it.  
    I desire it,  
        for You desire it.  
    I pray for it.  
    I long for it.

And Lord, I offer myself as Your instrument toward  
this glorious goal:  
    each dear individual  
    complete in Christ.

## **All in Christ**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Lord, this is our prayer: each person in Christ,  
The souls all around, all blooming in Christ,  
His Spirit, His life ever breathing within,  
His Word ever rooting us deeply in Him.

Each loved one in Christ, all growing in Christ,  
Our families, our friends, all joyful in Christ!  
O Lord, feed this vision and keep it in view:  
Each soul that You bought living freely in You.

All holy in Christ, all loving in Christ,  
Now filling each heart, the fullness of Christ!  
Lord, this is Your passion, come breathe it anew:  
Each person forever completed in You!

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## **This Is the One We Follow**

Father, as I prepare for worship,  
help me see Jesus hanging on the cross.

Help me see Him as He truly was:

the blood,  
the nakedness,  
the pain wrenching His body.

Help me see Him humbled,

repulsive,  
dying,  
abandoned.

Father, remind me –  
remind us:

This is our God.

This is His passionate love.

This is our Leader,  
our Shepherd,  
the One we imitate.

This is our goal,  
our ambition,  
our Way,  
our Truth,  
our Life.

This is the standard that guides our  
every day and  
every decision.

This is the way we deny ourselves.

This is the cross we carry.

This is the One we follow.

## **Christ Crucified**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Here stripped of all but blood and shame,  
The Lord of Lords, Christ crucified!  
Here crowned with thorns and robed with pain,  
The King of Kings, Christ crucified!  
Now hung upon His throne,  
Rejected, cursed, alone,  
In hatred hoisted high  
Against a blackened sky,  
Our dying God, the glorious Son!

Our Way, our Truth, our Life Divine,  
Our Broken Bread, Christ crucified.  
Our Light, our Door and Living Vine,  
Our Servant King, Christ crucified.  
Our calling now is clear.  
The life we seek is here.  
Our standard is the cross.  
We follow, gain or loss.  
Our goal: to glorify His name.

All power, riches, wisdom, might  
Be Yours alone, Christ crucified!  
Each burning hope, each heart's delight  
Is full in You, Christ crucified.  
With all our hearts we sing  
Our Lord, our God, our King!  
We fill our endless days  
With endless lives of praise,  
O Lamb of God, Christ crucified!

## **We Come Seeking You**

We do not come for the music.  
We do not come for the preaching.  
We do not come for the people.

Father, we come hungry for You.  
We come thirsty for You.

As we read,  
    speak, Father.  
    We are listening.  
As we pray,  
    hear and answer.  
    We are looking up to You.

As we teach,  
as we preach,  
    fill our minds.  
    Draw our hearts.  
    Reshape our lives.

Almighty God,  
All-wise God,  
God who truly, deeply, eternally seeks the very best for us,  
    we come seeking You.

## **We Come Seeking You**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

We come seeking You.  
We come seeking You.  
Nothing else will matter,  
Nothing else will do.  
We come seeking You.

We come, Lord, to pray.  
We bow and obey.  
Nothing else will matter,

Nothing else will do.  
We come seeking You.

Draw near as we read.  
Lord, speak to our need.  
Nothing else will matter,  
Nothing else will do.  
We come seeking You.

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## **The Reason We Sing**

Father, we sing to  
praise You,  
to give You some meager portion of all  
the gratitude and  
glory that we owe.

We sing to focus our  
minds,  
bodies, and  
spirits on You  
in all Your  
beauty and  
magnificence.

We sing to  
remind ourselves who You are, to  
strengthen our faith in You.

We sing to  
know You better, to  
open ourselves more fully to Your Spirit's teaching.

We sing to testify to others just how  
good,  
loving, and  
faithful You are.

Father, here in Your presence  
Your greatness compels us to sing.  
May we let nothing hinder us.  
Nothing, Lord.  
No distractions.  
No petty personal preferences.  
No judgmental attitudes toward our brothers and sisters.  
No hindrances, Lord.  
Our reasons for singing are so much greater than  
any reasons to hold back.  
Help us sing of You and Your truth with all the  
heart,  
soul,  
spirit, and

physical energy You deserve.

We will sing, Father, because  
we sing of YOU!

## **The Reason We Sing**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Creator of all, our Sovereign, our Lord,  
How great is Your love! How mighty Your Word!  
Our Savior, our shepherd, our champion and king,  
To praise You, our God, is the reason we sing!

Our Father, our help, our hope and our joy,  
The deep, settled peace no change can destroy,  
Our weakness and need are the offerings we bring.  
To strengthen our faith is the reason we sing!

We hunger and thirst with restless desire  
For Bread and for Breath, for wind and for fire.  
We long for the life that no other can bring.  
To know You, O God, is the reason we sing!

To all those You love, we offer Your grace,  
The touch of Your hand, the light of Your face.  
Your goodness and joy are the gifts we would bring.  
To lift up Your love is the reason we sing!

## **Your Implanted Word**

*Matthew 13*

As we worship, You will sow among us  
Your Word,  
    Your precious, eternal, life-giving truth,  
    Your truth about Jesus Christ, Your Son.  
Your Word will be read, sung, taught, and proclaimed.

O Father, help me receive it with an  
    open mind and  
    open heart.  
Help me to listen as Your Spirit whispers it to me.  
Help me to nurture Your implanted Word with  
    trust and  
    obedience.

Father, may the seed of Your Word  
    grow in my heart and life and  
    bear much fruit,  
    all to Your glory.

## **Bless This Seed**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Bless this seed  
As we sow.  
Father, only You can make it grow.

Bless this seed,  
Sown in faith.  
Lord, complete Your work as we obey.

In Your love,  
By Your Word,  
For Your purpose and Your glory, Lord,

Grow this seed  
Day by day.  
Bless its fruit in human lives, we pray.

In Your love,  
By Your Word,  
For Your purpose and Your glory, Lord,

You create.  
You command.  
Bless this seed. We leave it in Your hand.



## **Feed Me, Lord**

Father, as You feed my body so generously and faithfully,  
    You long to feed my soul.  
In Jesus Christ You spread a rich banquet  
    for my true, eternal self.

You offer me  
    His Spirit,  
    His love,  
    His peace and joy,  
    His unbroken relationship with You.  
You offer me everything that my being craves,  
    everything I will ever need,  
    everything You are.

Father, as I come to Your table today,  
    may I come hungry,  
ready to be fed with  
    every song  
    every prayer,  
    every word.

Feed me with  
    the Spirit of Christ.

Feed me with  
    His body and  
    His blood.

## **We Taste Your Life and Long for More**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

We taste Your life and long for more,  
O Living Bread, our Loving Lord!  
A hunger burns to live the truth,  
To find all life and love in You.

You came to us, so far away.  
You gave us hearts that need to pray.  
By failure led, by fear pursued,  
We hunger on, O Lord, for You.

You feed our souls with joy and pain,  
With shattered hopes, with loss and gain.  
You draw us near through all You do  
That all may come and feed on You.

Our hunger grows and seeks the day  
When all the plans Your love has made  
Will fill the earth till all is new  
And all are full, O Lord, in You!

## **Worship Like Jesus**

5 Father, I want to worship You  
as You desire to be worshiped.  
I want to worship You as Your Son worshiped You.  
His worship rose,  
not just from His lips,  
but from His heart and life.  
His worship was  
prayer,  
simple trust,  
eager obedience,  
loving service, and  
complete self-sacrifice.  
He worshiped You with all He was,  
with all His  
heart,  
soul,  
mind, and  
strength.

Father, give me His Spirit.  
Form in me His character.  
Form in me His relationship with You.  
Help me to worship You  
like Jesus.

## **Father, Help Me Worship You**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Father, help me worship You  
With a pure devotion,  
Not alone with lofty words  
Stirring sweet emotion.  
Plant in me the heart of Christ  
Clinging to His Father,  
Trusting You for every breath,  
Drinking every word.

Help me walk His daily path,  
Living as You lead me,  
Empty, Lord, of all but You,  
Joyful as You feed me,  
Giving every breath to You,  
Ever simply praying.  
Then when life is sacrifice,  
I will follow on.

Father, help me worship You  
With a pure devotion.  
Let my song be living praise  
Deeper than emotion.  
Help me live the life of Christ,  
Loving as He loved You  
Till our love is face to face,  
There forever one!

## **Jesus Among Us**

Jesus, You have promised to gather with us,  
even though we be only two or three.  
But will we recognize You there?

You taught us this:

*"Whoever receives one child like this in My name  
receives Me."* (Mark 9:37, NASB)

*"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to  
one of these brothers of Mine,  
even the least of them,  
you did it to Me."* (Matthew 25:40, NASB)

Jesus, You are among us in  
the neediest,  
the weakest,  
the smallest.

You arrive disguised as those easiest for  
self-centered eyes to overlook.

As we gather together, give me  
Your loving eyes,  
Your loving heart, and  
Your loving hands.

As You arrive among us  
disguised as the needy,  
help me to  
welcome You and  
serve You  
with all the joyful love You deserve.

## **Welcome, Jesus Christ!** (Hymn)

### [Recording & Printed Music](#)

Welcome, all who gather here!  
As you join us, Christ comes near,  
Christ in every human face,  
Blessing now the commonplace,  
Clothed in all our poverty,  
Flesh and blood and mystery,  
Leading us to love and life.  
Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ!

Bless us with Your presence here.  
Let us make our welcome clear.  
Let us serve You in Your need,  
Stand beside you, help, and feed.  
We have hearts and hands to lend  
As Your family, as Your friends.  
Loving You is our delight!  
Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ!

## **We Come and Go as Your People**

Father, we come because You call us.

You call us together  
as Your children,  
as Your people.

You gather us to Yourself.

When our brief gathering is ended,  
we go because You send us.

You send us  
as Your children,  
as Your people.

You send us out into our individual  
homes,  
neighborhoods,  
communities,  
schools,  
work places,  
social groups, and  
circles of friends.

You scatter Your people into every corner where  
people are,  
people whom You long to know You.

Father, as we come and  
as we go,  
help us come and go  
in Your name,  
in Your love, and  
in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

## **Come, Children, Come**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Come, children, come.  
I the Lord am calling.  
Gather to me.  
Lift your praise together.

Open your hearts.  
Hear my Spirit speaking.  
Come, children, come.

Pray, children, pray.  
I the Lord am listening.  
Bring me your needs.  
Bow and lift each other.  
Open your hearts.  
I will hear and answer.  
Pray, children, pray.

Go, children, go.  
I the Lord have sent you.  
Live in my love.  
Pour out my compassion.  
Rest in my strength.  
I am always with you.  
Go, children, go.



## **Longing for God**

Father, as I live here in Your presence,  
every connection with You,  
    every word from You,  
    every sense of You  
feeds a deep longing to be fully one with You.

Every time Your Spirit touches  
    my heart or  
    mind,  
I am overwhelmed with Your reality.  
I yearn to know You  
    without the dimness,  
    without the distance,  
    without the distraction.  
I yearn to know You  
    for all You are,  
    without interruption,  
    forever.

I know that day will come, Father, and  
    when it does,  
let that deep, unbroken knowing  
call from me  
    all the worship,  
    all the praise,  
    all the living, loving response  
that is possible from  
    a small, unworthy creature like myself.

O Living God, I long  
    to see You,  
    to know You,  
    to praise You.

## **O Living God**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

O Living God,  
I long to see You  
Lifted up in all Your glory;  
To see You there in holy beauty.  
O Lord, Almighty God,  
Living Christ, I love You.

O Living God,  
I long to praise You  
Heart and voice, with all creation;  
To worship You for tender mercy.  
O Lord, Almighty God,  
Living Christ, I love You.

O Living God,  
I soon will see You  
Face to face, in all Your glory.  
I'll worship You in endless wonder.  
O Lord, Almighty God,  
Living Christ, I love You.

## Today Is a Rehearsal

Father, today  
as we gather,  
as we worship,  
as we feast at Your table,  
we are preparing for another day.

Today only a few of us will come together.  
Soon we will gather as  
*“a great multitude which no one could count,  
from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues.”*  
(Revelation 7:9, NASB\*)

Today we gather in a small, local building.  
Soon we will gather  
*“before the throne and before the Lamb.”*  
Even a vast, magnificent temple would be useless there, for  
*“the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”*  
(Revelation 21:22, NASB)

Today we few lift our  
humble songs and  
stumbling words of praise.  
Soon heaven and earth and all creation will  
reverberate with worship that  
transcends all words, and  
we will add our hearts and voices to theirs.

Today our sacred meal appears  
small and  
symbolic.  
Soon we will feast  
our body, soul, mind, and spirit,  
forever,  
together,  
each of us and  
all of us.  
We will drink deeply of the wine of life.  
We will feast on the True Manna from heaven,  
on our Creator's complete provision for our entire being.  
We will feast on  
all Christ is and

all He has done for us.  
We will celebrate  
our eternal, perfect union  
with You, Father,  
in Christ, Your Holy Son.

Father, as we gather now  
in our little time and place,  
feed our hearts and  
nourish our souls  
with an undying hunger for that day.

## **Come, Our Lord!** (Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Lift up your eyes  
To the earth we now can see.  
Lift up your hearts  
To the world that soon will be.  
Life will be new,  
And its sorrows come no more.  
We hunger for Your new creation.  
Come, our Lord!  
"I'm coming! I'm coming  
To the loved ones I adore."  
We hear Your voice and trust Your promise.  
Come, our Lord!

See all the joy  
On the Father's smiling face.  
Come, feel the warmth  
Of eternal love's embrace.  
Taste all the fruits  
Of an Eden now restored.  
We sing the hope that rises in us:  
Come, our Lord!  
"I'm coming! I'm coming  
To be with you evermore."  
We hear Your voice and trust Your promise.  
Come, our Lord!

Come, join the meal,  
With the family all around.  
Come, drink the wine  
Of a love now more profound.  
Breathe all the peace  
Of His blessings now outpoured.  
The Morning Star is brightly shining.  
Come, our Lord!  
"I'm coming! I'm coming,  
So be patient through the storm."  
We hear Your voice and trust Your promise.  
Come, our Lord!

## **Prepare for Advent**

Father, Advent reminds me that  
    we live in a period of eager waiting.  
This time between  
    Your first coming and  
    Your second coming  
is one long Advent season.

Christ has come.  
He has brought us forgiveness for sin, and  
    He has promised to return and do away with sin forever.

He has empowered us for life and service.  
He has poured out on us His own holy life,  
    the life of the Father,  
    His Holy Spirit.  
And He has promised that when He returns,  
we will be united with Father, Son, and Spirit  
    completely and  
    forever.

He has risen from the dead, and  
    we are already enjoying His new resurrection life.  
But He has promised to come back and  
    finish His resurrection transformation.  
We will be fully risen in Him,  
    complete in Him,  
    new in Him,  
    alive in Him  
in ways we have only tasted.

During this Advent season, Father,  
heighten within me  
    the waiting,  
    the hoping,  
    the anticipating.  
Fix my heart, mind, and daily life on our  
    oneness with You  
    in Jesus Christ.

## **Live in the Promise**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Live in the promise of all that will be.  
Wait for the day.  
Long for the day.  
Savor the beauty of all we will see.  
Eagerly wait for the day.  
Hold to the hope that will anchor your soul.  
He who has promised is still in control.  
Sing every step with your eyes on the goal.  
Joyfully wait for the day.

Hope sees the hand of the Lord all around.  
Wait for the day.  
Long for the day.  
You are as free as your faith will allow.  
Eagerly wait for the day.  
Pleasures are passing, and beauty will fade.  
Riches deceive us, and years slip away.  
Only your life in the Lord will remain.  
Joyfully wait for the day.

Death is the doorway from darkness to light.  
Wait for the day.  
Long for the day.  
Come, drink your fill from the fountain of life.  
Eagerly wait for the day.  
Seeds planted here will have blossomed and grown.  
There in the light we will see, we will know.  
How great His love! Only heaven will show.  
Joyfully wait for the day.

## **Prepare for Advent: Peace**

Father, You are peace.  
You are wholeness,  
    harmony, and  
    complete well-being.

I long to breathe Your peace  
    as Christ breathes it,  
    so perfectly and naturally.

You and He are  
    one Spirit,  
    one heart,  
    one mind,  
    one love.

As I trust You, I share in Your peace.

I share in Christ, and  
    He Himself is peace. (Ephesians 2:14)  
    The fruit of His presence is peace. (Galatians 5:22)  
    He gives peace in every circumstance. (1 Thessalonians 3:16)

On this second Sunday of Advent,  
You give us a glimpse of a new world in which  
Your perfect peace flows like a river  
    through every relationship and  
    through all of life,  
    through the very fabric of creation itself.

That peace comes only in Jesus Christ,  
    who alone can make us one with You.  
His peace began at His first coming –  
    and how I am enjoying those beginnings!  
But His universal, all-encompassing peace will not be complete till  
    He comes again.

O come, Lord Jesus!  
We wait for You and  
    long for You!



## **Sweet Peace**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Sweet peace, deep peace  
In Jesus Messiah;  
No fear, no fear  
Is found in Him.  
His Spirit will flow  
And fill all creation  
With peace in the fullness of God.

The wolf with the lamb,  
The calf with the lion –  
A child will be their shepherd.  
They will live as one.  
The Lord will reign  
In justice forever,  
And wrong will be no more.

Sweet peace, deep peace  
In Jesus Messiah;  
No fear, no fear  
Is found in Him.  
His Spirit will flow  
And fill all creation  
With peace in the fullness of God.

## **Prepare for Advent: Joy**

*Joy to the world!*  
*The Lord has come!*

Father, on this third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate  
*good news of great joy* (Luke 2:10).

Your Son has come to us, and  
we rejoice!

He has poured out on us the oil of gladness. (Isaiah 61:3)

He has shared with us the fullness of His joy,  
the joy that He finds in You alone. (John 17:13).

He is mercy and complete forgiveness.

He is sufficiency in every situation.

He is full and unbroken union with You.

He is the same

yesterday,

today, and

forever,

so He brings a joy that

trouble,

sorrow, and

death itself cannot destroy.

But this great joy is only a down-payment on  
the joy that is to come.

When we see Jesus for all that He is,

our joy in Him will be full and forever.

O come, Lord Jesus!

We are waiting!

## **Advent Joy**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Hear the star lift up its praise  
With a song of brilliant light.  
Hear the whisper of the night,  
Echoing the joy,  
Adding a refrain.  
It's a melody of hope,  
For the Lord our God has come!

All the mountains clap their hands,  
And the distant lands rejoice.  
Now the earth begins to dance,  
Swaying to the tune,  
Caught up in the praise.  
All creation moves as one,  
For the Lord our God has come!

#### *Refrain:*

Join the dance!  
Lift your voice!  
Sing His greatness and rejoice!  
He is here,  
And we shine in His glory!

See creation all made new  
In the light of perfect peace.  
See His people all His own,  
Holy in His love,  
Glowing as a bride.  
Now the feast of life begins,  
For the Lord our God has come!

## **Prepare for Advent: Love**

Father, in Jesus Christ You have not only showed us Your love.  
You have poured it out on us in Him.

He comes to us fully expressing Your boundless love  
in every aspect of our lives.

He comes  
forgiving,  
healing,  
teaching,  
touching,  
talking,  
weeping,  
smiling,  
suffering,  
dying, and  
rising again.

*See what great love the Father lavished on us! (1 John 3:1, NIV)*

Father, as we gather together in Your presence on this fourth Sunday of Advent,  
help us to

realize Your love,  
receive Your love,  
respond to Your love, and  
actively express it to everyone we touch day by day.

As You freely poured out Your love through Your Son,  
pour it out through us  
on all the world,  
through His Spirit within us.

## **Love Has Come!**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Love has come -- a light in the darkness!  
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.

Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of His mother.  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come – He never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

## **Prepare for Christmas**

Father, this Christmas  
as I prepare for worship,  
prepare me to receive Your Gift.

Prepare me to receive  
Your life,  
Your love,  
Your wisdom,  
Your complete well-being,  
Your wholeness,  
Your harmony,  
Your joy,  
Your purity,  
Your constant enabling.

Prepare me to receive  
Yourself in  
Your Holy Son, Jesus Christ.

Help me to welcome Him into  
all my thoughts and  
all my desires,  
into the priorities that rule my every decision,  
into all my daily habits, and  
each of my personal relationships.

A gift is only valuable when it is received.  
This Christmas, help me fully receive  
Your priceless Gift,  
the Living Christ.

## **Jesus, the Gift of Christmas**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Almighty God, we hear You call.  
We come and bow, so weak and small,  
To seek what You would give us all:  
Jesus, the Gift of Christmas.

Quiet our hearts while resting here.  
No loud desire, no anxious fear  
Should enter now while He is near –  
Jesus, the Gift of Christmas.

Father, may simple faith increase  
And bring our souls that sweet release  
To know Your love and joy and peace –  
Jesus, the Gift of Christmas.

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## **Prepare for Epiphany**

Father, we who walked in darkness  
    have seen a Great Light.  
The Sun of Righteousness has risen over us.  
The Light of all the nations has dawned.

Your glory has appeared, and  
    we have seen it.  
It is the glory of Your only Son,  
    who has come from Your own intimate presence.  
His glory shines brightly with  
    Your grace and  
    Your truth.

Jesus is the Light of the World.  
As we come to worship this Epiphany,  
    we come to the Light.  
We walk in the Light.  
We lift the Light so that all can see Him.

## **Light of Every Nation**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

God's children come from far and near,  
Come to kneel in worship.  
The dawning of His reign is here.  
See them come and worship!

#### *Refrain:*

Jesus! Jesus!  
Light of every nation!  
Every knee will bow to You,  
Lord of all creation!

He shatters all the chains that bind.  
Glory in the highest!



Now life is rich and unconfined.  
Glory in the highest!

See justice like a mighty stream!  
God Himself is with us!  
Now love and goodness reign supreme.  
God Himself is with us!

## **Prepare for Ash Wednesday**

Father, we worry and complain about so many things,  
but we rarely give even a passing thought to  
what is saddest and most destructive  
in our entire world:  
    our sin and  
    our unrepentant hearts.

Today, Lord, make us conscious of our sin and  
    its terrible price.

We have turned our back on You, our Creator,  
    the only Source of all that is good.

We have dethroned You  
    from our lives and  
    from our race.

In Your place, we have enthroned our  
    puny,  
    perverted,  
    ignorant,  
    short-lived selves.

The results have been predictable:  
    darkness,  
    chaos,  
    suffering, and  
    death.

Father, we own our sin.  
    It is the one thing in this entire world that is  
    truly our own.

We face and accept our physical death  
    as the inevitable result of our sin.

We bow to You, face down,  
    excusing nothing,  
    claiming nothing,  
    clinging to nothing but Your mercy.

We confess and repent, Father.

Have mercy on us.

O God, have mercy!

## **Ash Wednesday Hymn**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

Creator God, beyond, above,  
Unbounded power, pure in love,  
Your goodness shines through all Your ways,  
And worlds arise to shout Your praise!  
But Lord, we bow, unwise, unclean, untrue,  
Unworthy, Lord, unworthy of You.

You formed and filled this house of clay.  
Now futile lives just fade away.  
We come from dust and soon return  
And waste the riches none could earn.  
We mourn, we mourn, all weakness through and through,  
Unworthy, Lord, unworthy of You.

But now in Christ You breathe anew.  
We breathe a boundless life in You,  
Becoming all we're meant to be,  
Your Spirit as our guarantee.  
In Christ complete, Your image now restored,  
We praise You, Father, Savior, and Lord!

## **Prepare for Lent**

Father, this Lent,  
show me the path that Jesus walked,  
that I may walk in His steps.

I see His life of love.  
I see His beautiful, unbroken relationship with You.  
I see His fruitfulness,  
His abounding joy and  
His unbroken peace  
in the midst of self-sacrifice, and

I want to follow.  
Wherever He leads me, Lord,  
I want to go.

Through repentance,  
through temptation,  
through self-denial,

I want to walk  
with Him  
in You, Father.

I will walk the road to the cross,  
as long as He  
goes before me and  
walks with me,  
as long as  
He leads and  
He enables.

This Lent, Father,  
show me Jesus.  
Make me one with Jesus.

## **Hear His Call**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Hear His call:  
Come and die.  
Come and die with Jesus,  
Die to sin,  
Self denied,  
Crucified with Jesus.  
All but Him  
Laid aside,  
Wanting only Jesus.  
Losing all,  
Gaining Him,  
Gaining all in Jesus.

Share His death,  
Share His life,  
Risen now with Jesus.  
Spirit-born,  
Spirit-filled,  
Breathing only Jesus.  
All His mind,  
All His love,  
All and only Jesus.  
All we are  
As He is,  
Now and ever, Jesus!

Soon with Him,  
Glorified,  
All complete in Jesus.  
Lamb of God,  
Lord of Life,  
Jesus, only Jesus!

## **Prepare for Holy Week**

Father, prepare my heart and mind for Holy Week.

Help me to  
    cheer,  
    rejoice, and  
    sing praise  
as Jesus comes to us triumphantly in the face of death,  
    proclaiming Himself our Messiah!  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!

Help me share His burning zeal for His Father's house.  
And may He cleanse my heart as well whenever I allow  
    life's busy-ness to crowd out prayer.

Open my ears and my heart, Lord,  
as Jesus urges us to  
    pray boldly and  
    patiently endure the persecution that will surely come.

Infuse my life with the fragrance of love  
as a woman models how to  
lavishly worship Jesus,  
    with no thought of self,  
    holding nothing back.

Humble me and  
challenge my concept of ministry  
as our Master takes on Himself  
    the lowest,  
    most menial,  
    most irksome service to His disciples.

Then, Father, help me watch with new eyes  
as Your only Son  
    sweats blood in the garden,  
    silently endures brutal injustice, and  
    dies willingly under indescribable torture.  
Impress Your love in a fresh way on  
    my mind and  
    my heart.

Make me ready once again to  
receive it and to  
pour it out on others.

## **As You Love**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Man of Sorrows, forsaken,  
Bruised and bleeding Lamb of God,  
When the price is my comfort,  
Help me love as You love.

With the proud and ungrateful  
You are gracious, You are kind.  
We are all undeserving.  
Help me love as You love.

Through rejection, through injustice,  
When none understand,  
As a child of Your mercy,  
Help me love as You love.

Lord, my heart is so cluttered,  
All You are is only love.  
Form Yourself here within me –  
Help me love as You love.

I am rich, yet so anxious.  
You are poor, yet glad to give.  
From our Father's abundance,  
Help me love as You love.

All around me are the needy.  
My God, how You care!  
Fill my heart with Your Spirit!  
Help me love as You love.

## **Prepare for Easter**

Father, as I celebrate this Easter season,  
teach me what it means to live as  
    an Easter person  
    in this present world.

Everyone here is facing  
    inescapable death.  
Help me live Your resurrection life among them,  
glowing with  
    hope,  
    purpose, and  
    joyful anticipation.

Here sin seems inescapable.  
Failure is considered inevitable.  
Help me live as one set free from sin,  
    fully forgiven and  
    fully empowered for triumphant living.

Here, as we face the future,  
we are gripped with  
    helplessness and  
    despair.  
May I walk in the bright confidence of Easter.  
Help me live as one whose eternal, glorious life in You  
    has already begun, and  
    will never end.

Father, may lost and hopeless people  
sense the beautiful reality of Easter  
    in me.



## **Alive in You**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Dying in You,  
Rising in You,  
Living in You today, today;  
Simply believing,  
Simply receiving  
Love I can never repay.

Alive, Lord, in You,  
I rise, Lord, in You,  
Delight, Lord, in You,  
My Savior, my Savior.  
I'm free now in You,  
Complete now in You.  
I love You, Lord Jesus, today;  
I love You, Lord Jesus, today.

## **Prepare for Ascension Day**

Father, thank You for the ascension of Jesus.  
He is once again in Your intimate presence,  
    breathing the love and peace that were Yours  
    from all eternity.  
We share Your joy in His return!

His ascension assures us that His work here is complete.  
The perfect human life has been lived.  
The full and final sacrifice for all our sin has been  
    offered and  
    accepted.  
At Your side He is ruling all history and all reality with  
    perfect wisdom,  
    perfect power, and  
    perfect love.  
Once again He is bathed in the glory and magnificence  
    that are uniquely and rightfully His.

As He is parted from us, You reassure us that  
    You will be with us forever.  
You remind us that  
    You will soon pour out Your Spirit on us, and  
    Your Son will one day return  
        just as we have seen Him go.

By His ascension, You have exalted the crucified Christ as  
    Savior,  
    Lord, and  
    soon-coming King.  
Father, we praise You!  
Today help us celebrate this glorious reality.

## **The Glorified Christ**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Christ is come. His life is given.  
Christ is risen from the dead.  
Christ is King, our Lord ascended.  
Power and glory crown His head.  
First and Last, our Priest and Shepherd,  
Son of God and Son of Man;  
Grace and mercy, truth and justice,  
Life and death are in His hand.

See our God! He walks among us,  
Eyes ablaze with holy flame.  
See Him clothed in endless glory,  
Not in rags as once He came.  
Hear His voice like rolling thunder.  
Truth is now His mighty sword.  
Trust His love. Embrace His wisdom.  
Kneel, O earth! Receive your Lord!

## **Prepare for Pentecost**

Father, thank You for giving me Your Spirit,  
the Spirit of Your holy and beloved Son,  
Jesus Christ.

What a magnificent Gift!

He is enriching my life in ways beyond my  
counting or  
comprehending.

He is breathing Christ into  
my mind,  
my desires, and  
my daily actions.

But Father, You have taught me that my relationship with You  
is a dynamic one.

Your Spirit is not a one-time Gift.

He is Your living, breathing presence.

Like any relationship,  
ours is a living stream:

it flows continually, or  
it becomes stagnant and  
begins to dry up.

I want Your Spirit in me to be  
*a well of water springing up to eternal life. (John 4:14, NASB).*

Father, thank You for the Gift of Pentecost.

May everyone I encounter be  
refreshed and  
nourished by

Your Spirit flowing through me.

## **Breath of Life**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

Joy is not a bubble,  
Not a passing dream.  
It's deeper than all trouble,  
Flowing on unseen.

*Refrain:*

Breath of Life,  
Living God now within;  
Evermore  
Here in me, me in Him.

Life is like a fountain,  
Not a stormy sea.  
It's springing up forever,  
Rising full and free!

He is holy Jesus,  
Holy in my heart.  
He's speaking love and mercy,  
Calling me apart.

As I trust His goodness,  
Life and joy begin.  
I'm walking in His presence,  
Growing more like Him.

My Lord! My Lord! My Lord!

## **Prepare for Trinity Sunday**

O Lord our God,  
You share Yourself with us  
    so completely,  
    so graciously,  
    so beautifully.

You are our Father Creator.  
Existence itself is Yours alone, and  
    You joyfully share it with us.  
You lavish on us  
    Your life,  
    Your love,  
    Your wisdom,  
    Your glory.

You are Jesus, our divine yet human Brother.  
You tenderly, sacrificially became  
    one with us in every way.  
By sharing  
    our weakness,  
    our suffering, and  
    our death,  
You reunited us with God our Father.  
Thank You, Lord!  
Thank You!

You are God the Spirit.  
You breathe  
    into us and  
    among us  
the life of the Father and  
the life of the Son.

O boundless, mysterious, merciful, all-encompassing God!  
You envelop us in Yourself  
    every moment in  
    every way.  
In You we  
    live and  
    move and  
    have our being.

Today, Lord, help us  
worship You for all You are!

## **Trinity Hymn** (Hymn)

### [Recording & Printed Music](#)

God Almighty, Great Creator,  
Lord and Father, King and Friend,  
Ever full, yet ever giving,  
Pure, but quick to condescend!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Love that none can comprehend!

Fullness of the Father's glory,  
Human Son, Immanuel,  
Word of God, His mercy spoken,  
Crushing sin and death and hell!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
God is here, and all is well!

God is with us – breathe His Spirit!  
Know your heaven here begun,  
Bathed in life and love and power,  
Fruit of all that Christ has done.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Earth and heaven breathe as one.

God the Father, Son, and Spirit!  
All around and all within,  
He has wrapped us in His Being.  
All is life & peace in Him.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Morning dawns, let life begin!

## **Prepare for Ordinary Time**

Father, thank You for ordinary time, when You  
quietly,  
patiently,  
daily  
order our lives by  
the example and  
the words of Jesus.

Thank You for the privilege of spending these days with  
Your holy and perfectly-pleasing Son.

Like His first disciples, we  
walk with Him,  
talk with Him,  
watch Him, and  
listen to Him.

We work with Him and  
relax with Him.

We feast on His words and  
drink in the pattern of His life.

And as we follow Him,  
His Spirit within us turns  
His teaching and  
His example  
into faith and love in our own lives.

Father, thank You for these  
ordinary, beautiful days  
spent with Jesus.

## **Come and Follow Me**

(Hymn)

[Recording & Printed Music](#)

Come and follow Me.  
Joy is waiting!  
Leave all behind, and don't delay!



Hear Me calling you.  
Do you trust Me?  
I am the Life, the Truth, the Way.  
If you believe Me, just obey.

Come and follow Me.  
Walk on water!  
Step out, though all may seem unclear.  
Claim My promise and trust My power.  
I am I AM! Ignore your fear!  
I am I AM, and I am here.

Come and follow Me.  
Share My suffering.  
Hear now My call to come and die.  
Trade what's passing to find what's greater.  
Come learn the joy of sacrifice!  
Lose all the world and gain My life.

Come and follow Me.  
Needs are crying.  
Friend, if you love Me, feed My sheep.  
Serve the needy in daily places,  
Even when none may seem to see.  
I am your shepherd— follow Me.

## **Prepare for All Saints Day**

Father, thank You for uniting us with Jesus, Your holy Son.

In Him, we are one with You  
through the Spirit we share.

And as we are all one with Jesus,  
we are one with each other as well.

We are one in Him with all God's children of every  
language,  
culture, and  
personality, of  
every time and place.

By being one with Him in the Spirit,  
we all become one in Him with each other.

Our oneness  
with You and  
with every other believer  
is in Jesus Christ.

All this is Your doing, loving Father, and  
we praise You!

We are in the early stages of this wonderful unity, and  
we are just beginning to understand what it will mean.

We are warmed as Jesus speaks of us so glowingly as  
His friends,  
His family,  
His body, and  
His bride.

It seems that no one image can fully express His desire  
for all of us to be together in Him  
in the fullest possible sense.

Father of all,  
help us to grow in this marvelous and mysterious unity.

We know it is Your loving desire for  
each of us and  
all of us,

so it is our desire as well.

More and more one in Christ,  
and in Him,

more and more one with each other –  
that is our prayer, Father.

One with You.

## **Christ and His Bride**

(Hymn)

### **Recording & Printed Music**

See, see her coming down,  
Robed in all His splendor.  
Christ takes His bride!  
Christ takes His bride!  
See how He loves her,  
So radiant and holy,  
Faithful and pure.

God, God is now with us.  
We are joined forever.  
One with our God!  
One with our God!  
Darkness and sorrow  
Dissolve into glory.  
Death is no more.

"See, see the morning dawn  
Over earth and heaven!  
All now is new!  
All now is new!  
I am life's fullness,  
Its fountain and ocean.  
Come live in me!  
Come live in me!"

## **Prepare for Christ the King Sunday**

O Father, the day is coming when  
    every knee will bow and  
    every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.  
Every heart will sing of Him.  
Every life will worship Him.  
All that is will glorify Him.  
Everything that is not of Him  
    will be gone forever.  
All reality will reflect  
    Him and  
    Him alone.

Father, I long for that day!  
Today,  
    begin it in me.  
    Begin it here, among Your people.  
The culmination of the Christian year and  
    the culmination of all history  
is the crowning of Jesus Christ as  
    King of All Kings and  
    Lord of All Lords.  
For me,  
for us,  
in our hearts,  
in our worship,  
    may today be the day.

*"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."*  
(Revelation 19:6, NASB)

## **Enthronement Hymn**

(Hymn)

### **[Recording & Printed Music](#)**

We lift our love to You, Eternal King!  
Our lives of worship are the praise we bring.  
Our lives, Great Savior, are the praise we bring!

King of Glory, Your universe awaits!  
We lift our heads! Be lifted up, you gates!

*Refrain:*

Come, Lord Jesus!  
All kingdoms are Your own!  
Come, Almighty God,  
Ascend Your throne!

Our God made flesh, our living Bread and Wine,  
Our Lord, our Brother, and our Breath Divine!  
Our Lord, we share Your holy breath divine.  
Hope of glory, our heaven here begun,  
The Prince of Life, the Father's Sovereign Son!

# **A Christ-centered Year**

## **Readings & Hymns presenting Jesus as the focus of the Christian Year**

*A CHRIST-CENTERED YEAR* is a set of readings and hymns that present Jesus as the focus of the Christian Year. An opening reading emphasizes that He is the center of our celebrations throughout the year. That reading mentions twelve specific days or seasons. It is followed by individual readings for each of those twelve days or seasons.

Each of the thirteen readings ends in an appropriate hymn from [LNWhymns.com](http://LNWhymns.com).

Use the readings in your services or in handouts or bulletin inserts, or email them to your people. As long as you do not charge for this material, you may use it free for your local church ministry. Just make sure to include the copyright line at the bottom of each piece.

The twelve days or seasons included are Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Ordinary Time, All Saints Day, and Christ the King Sunday.

## **A Christ-centered Year**

During Advent, Jesus is the Promise of the Father.

During Christmas, He is the Gift of the Father. He is all the fullness of God embodied in a human infant.

During Epiphany, Jesus is the Light of the Father, drawing all people to Himself.

During Lent, He is the Father's Servant, leading us on the path of obedience and trust.

During Holy Week, Jesus is the Love of the Father, humbly submitting to death on the cross.

During Easter, He is the Life of the Father, overcoming death and sin forever.

On Ascension Day, Jesus is at the Father's right hand, reigning as Sovereign Lord and King.

On Pentecost, He pours out the Promise of the Father, baptizing every believer in the Holy Spirit of God.

On Trinity Sunday, Jesus ushers us into the full unity, love, and fellowship of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

During Ordinary Time, Jesus helps us order our lives by His teaching and example. He gives us His Spirit as a down-payment while we eagerly await His promised Advent.

On All Saints Day, Jesus unites us with all God's children of all nations and all ages.

On Christ the King Sunday, we rise up together and crown Jesus King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Brothers and sisters, let's constantly celebrate all God has done for us in Jesus Christ! Let's make this a Christ-centered year.

Hymn: [Discover Jesus Christ](#)

## **The Christ of Advent**

During Advent, Jesus is the Promise of the Father.

*No matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ.*

(2 Corinthians 1:20, NIV)

Think of our God, unlimited by time and place,  
all-seeing,  
ever-present.

Everywhere and all eternity are the domain in which He dwells.

He is complete and perfect, so He does not change.

His Word is sovereign. All reality responds to His will. He speaks, and it is so.

For this God, His eternal purposes are certain and complete.

They are not future possibilities.

They are present reality.

But we are small and fearful, bound by time, creatures of the now.

We see only ourselves and our tiny sliver of all that is.

God's greatest blessings are too vast, too broad in time.

We cannot trace His love and all its magnificent ways.

But our loving Father longs to wrap us in the beautiful certainty of  
all He is and all He does.

So He makes promises that let us glimpse His love beyond our now.

His promises assure us of unchanging truth, that

God will always be who He has always been;

He will always do what He has always done; and

He will complete all He has started.

God's promises are not empty words, rosy wishes, or mere intention.

God's promises describe eternal reality.

And now, God's promises are a Person, a living, human, divine Person  
who embodies all God has done and all He is doing for His children.

During Advent, look to Jesus. He is the Promise of the Father.

As He is, we will be.

Hymn: [The Promise](#)



## **The Christ of Christmas**

During Christmas, Jesus is the Gift of the Father.  
He is all the fullness of God embodied in a human infant.

*A child will be born to us, a son will be given to us...  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Eternal Father,  
Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6, NASB)*

Christmas is the unveiling of  
God's greatest promise,  
His greatest miracle,  
His greatest gift:

His own incarnation.

All He is,  
all His purity and perfection,  
all His transcendent beauty,  
became a human being.

The limitless God became the poorest, most helpless of all human creatures:  
the newborn infant of an unmarried peasant girl.

Look! Here is the gift of Christmas.  
Here is the wonder of Christmas.  
Here are all the most precious treasures,  
poured out on all who will receive them.  
Here are holiness, wisdom, and boundless joy,  
wholeness, harmony, and complete well-being.  
Here are unity and individuality,  
eternal belonging and a glorious destiny.

During Christmas, receive  
the Gift of the Father,  
the life of the Father, and  
the love of the Father.  
Receive Jesus Christ by simple faith.

Hymn: [\*\*You Came to Us\*\*](#)

## The Christ of Epiphany

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2, NIV)*

During Epiphany, Jesus is the Light of the Father, drawing all people to Himself.

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness will cover the earth  
And deep darkness the peoples;  
But the Lord will rise upon you  
And His glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
And kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3, NASB)*

Among the very first people to be told of Messiah's coming,  
among His very first worshipers,  
were visitors from a far away land and a different religion.  
Jesus did not come as just the Jewish Messiah or the Christian Savior,  
but as the Light of the World.

*I will also make You a light of the nations  
So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth. (Isaiah 49:6, NASB)*

Jesus is the knowledge of our universal God shining out to  
every people and culture, to  
every individual, for  
every human need.

He is understanding in our profound ignorance.  
He is wisdom in our foolishness.  
He is God's glory in our darkness and shame.  
He is pure, beautiful, living truth.

During Epiphany, Jesus is the Light of the Father.  
Come to the Light.  
Walk in the Light.  
Lift the light so that  
all can see Him for all He is.

Hymn: [Epiphany Hymn \(REGENT SQUARE\)](#)

## The Christ of Lent

During Lent, Jesus is the Father's Servant,  
leading us on the path of obedience and trust.

*"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24, NASB)*

When we take the truth to a dark and rebellious world,  
we meet fierce opposition from the Evil One.  
We are going against the strong current of our culture.  
As we do, we are called to disregard all personal costs,  
to let our entire life fall to the ground like a seed and die,  
in order that eternal fruit will grow.

But Jesus does not drive us out into such self-sacrifice.  
He leads us.  
He goes with us.  
He goes before us.  
He demonstrates that such a life is  
abundantly joyful,  
permeated with  
peace,  
love, and  
constant sufficiency.

During Lent, Jesus is the Father's Servant,  
leading us on the beautiful path of obedience and trust.  
Let all who are looking for the very best of life  
respond to His personal call, "Follow Me".

Hymn: [Lay Aside Your Passing Pleasures](#)

## The Christ of Holy Week

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10, NIV)*

During Holy Week, Jesus is the Love of the Father,  
humbly submitting to death on the cross.

Watch as Jesus burns with zeal for His Father's house and  
cleanses the temple.

Listen as He urges His disciples to  
pray boldly,  
patiently endure persecution, and  
remain faithful.

Breathe the alabaster fragrance of a woman's lavish worship  
in preparation for Jesus' burial.

Be humbled as He bows to  
model servanthood and  
washes your feet.

Stand helplessly as He is arrested and led away.

Hear His silence in the face of brutal injustice.

Sense His deep loneliness.

See His agony.

Watch Him die.

Feel the awful stillness as a huge stone seals in His lifeless body.

This is the measure of Jesus' love for the Father.

This is the measure of His love for us.

This is the new standard for our love for each other:

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35, NASB)*

Hymn: [Here Is Love](#)

## **The Christ of Easter**

*By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.*  
(1 Corinthians 6:14, NIV)

During Easter, Jesus is the Life of the Father,  
overcoming death and sin forever.

Consider the power of His Life in your life.  
He became a helpless infant,  
    so He doesn't recoil at your weakness.  
He wrapped Himself in shame, rejection, and homelessness,  
    so He isn't offended by your lowliness.  
He poured Himself out in teaching and healing,  
    so He warmly embraces you in your ignorance and need.  
He begged forgiveness for His torturers.  
    so He will not abandon you in your sin.  
He silently accepted all the abuse His enemies could dish out,  
    so He will not be frightened away by anything you might do.

The Life that spoke all life into existence  
could not be defeated by death—  
    not in Christ and  
    not in you.  
This Life took the worst that evil could give and  
    emerged the Conqueror.

You have absolutely nothing to fear.  
Not now.  
Not ever.  
The unconquerable Life is now your life.

*"Your life is now hidden with Christ in God."* (Colossians 3:3, NIV)

*"Death has been swallowed up in victory."* (1 Corinthians 15:54, NIV)

Hymn:        [Christ Is Alive! We Live in Him!](#)

## The Ascended Christ

*God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. (Ephesians 1:20-21, NRSV)*

On Ascension Day, Jesus is at the Father's right hand,  
reigning as Sovereign Lord and King.

His work is completed.  
The perfect human life has been lived.  
The Sacrifice has been offered and accepted.  
Atonement has been made.  
Humanity and holiness are rejoined.  
Sin and death are conquered.  
Peace reigns.  
Life reigns.  
Love reigns forever.

Jesus is once again where He belongs:  
in the bosom of the Father,  
on the seat of power and honor,  
bathed in eternal glory.

He is soon to signal His heavenly arrival by  
lavishly pouring out God's own Spirit  
on every child of God.

In the meantime, two angels have made His departure  
a promise of His return:

*"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11, NASB)*

Hymn: [Psalm 110](#)

## **The Christ of Pentecost**

*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, NIV)*

On Pentecost, Jesus pours out the Promise of the Father,  
baptizing every believer in the Holy Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit is the life of God in motion.  
He is the wind of God, the breath of God, the power of God.  
In the Old Testament, the gift of the Spirit was limited.  
It was given only to specific individuals  
for specific times and specific tasks.

But Messiah came filled with the Spirit from birth, in unlimited measure.  
The Holy Spirit of God conceived Jesus,  
testified to who He was, and  
empowered Him throughout His life.  
Jesus lived in the Spirit, spoke in the Spirit,  
did the mighty works of God in the Spirit, and  
died and rose in the Spirit.

Then, as the culmination of His ministry, after returning to the Father,  
Jesus poured out this Spirit on all believers,  
not for a specific task or season, but completely and forever.

The Spirit is the life of the Father and Son—  
their presence and power dwelling among and within all believers.  
What an incredible Gift!  
And the Gift arrived just as Jesus had promised,  
accompanied by undeniable sights and sounds.  
This dramatic event proved that Jesus was Christ and Lord,  
that He had died according to the scriptures,  
had risen according to the scriptures, and  
now He reigned at the right hand of God Almighty.

On Pentecost, Jesus poured out the Promise of the Father,  
immersing His people in the living, loving Spirit of Almighty God.

Hymn: [Pentecost Hymn](#)

## **The Christ of Trinity Sunday**

*"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever...the Spirit of truth.*

*"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him." (John 14:16-17, 23, NASB)*

On Trinity Sunday, Jesus ushers us into  
the full unity, love, and fellowship of  
Father, Son, and Spirit.

God is our Father, who lavishly, joyfully shares  
His life and existence with us.

God is the Son, our Brother,  
who fully became one of us,  
reuniting us with the Father.

God is the Spirit, who breathes the Son  
among us and within us.

God is Father, Son, and Spirit,  
One God,  
One undivided being,  
One self-giving love,

yet three distinct persons.

Each envelops us in God in unique ways and at the same time,  
enables our union with all the Others.

Their complete oneness, their unbroken sharing,  
is the heaven of peace and wholeness  
into which all believers are being drawn.

This oneness gave Jesus the holy,  
peaceful,  
completely sufficient life He enjoyed,  
even while wrapped in poverty and suffering.

On Trinity Sunday, Jesus ushers us into  
this full unity, love, and fellowship in the  
Father, Son, and Spirit.

Hymn: [One with God](#)



## **The Christ of Ordinary Time**

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*  
(2 Peter 3:18, NASB)

During Ordinary Time, Jesus helps us order our lives by His teaching and example.  
He gives us His Spirit as a down-payment  
while we eagerly await His promised Advent.

Ordinary time is like the days Jesus spent with His disciples.  
Together they walked long, dusty roads.  
They talked,  
taught,  
healed, and  
suffered together.

Our ordinary time is much the same.  
It is time spent being disciplined by Christ, our personal companion.

We learn by watching Him, by drinking in His example.  
We learn from His Words, by hearing Him teach.  
We learn by doing, by serving as He served and  
obeying the Father as He obeyed.

We find that as Jesus proclaims His Kingdom within us,  
He is like the teacher He described in Matthew 13:52:  
*Every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head  
of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.* (NASB)  
Jesus sheds new light on timeless treasures from  
the law, the psalms, and the prophets.  
He also gives us new wine in new wineskins.

During Ordinary Time, Jesus helps us order our lives by His teaching and example.  
He gives us His Spirit as a down-payment  
while we eagerly await His promised Advent.

Hymn: [See All That Human Can Be](#)

## The Christ of All Saints Day

*You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building...is growing into a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesians 2:19-21, NASB)*

On All Saints Day, Jesus unites us with all God's children of all nations and all ages. He was speaking of us when He said,

*"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd."*  
(John 10:16, NASB)

In His final evening before His arrest, as He talked to His Father, He prayed for us:

*"I do not ask on behalf of these [disciples] alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."* (John 17:20-21, NASB)

He longed to make us all one with Himself,  
one with the Father, Son, and Spirit.

To express this oneness, He speaks of us and thinks of us as  
His friends, His family,  
His temple, His body, His bride.

It seems that no one image could fully express His desire to be  
together with us in the fullest possible sense.

In Christ, we are united with all believers of every time, every nation,  
every language and culture, every situation and personality.

The lives and examples of all who have gone before us  
are like a great cloud of witnesses,  
watching, encouraging, and cheering us on.

In Jesus Christ we share with them the same Spirit,  
the same love, and the same purpose.

Together we are being prepared as the holy, beautiful, glorious bride of Christ.

On All Saints Day, Jesus unites us with all God's children and  
points us toward our shared destiny in Him.

Hymn: [Revelation 21](#)

## Christ the King

On Christ the King Sunday, we rise up together and crown Jesus  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

He has redeemed us by His blood.  
He has freed us from death and from the guilt and power of sin.  
He is our Savior, our Shepherd,  
our Sacrifice, our Priest,  
our Teacher, our Advocate, our Prince.

Now His procession approaches, and we hear the cry,  
*Lift up your heads, O gates,  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
That the King of glory may come in!  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.* (Psalm 24:9-10, NASB)

The numberless throng all around us is shouting wildly,  
*"Hosanna to the Son of David!"  
"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
"Hosanna in the highest!"* (Matthew 21:9, NASB)

Every eye is fixed on Him as He enters and approaches the throne.  
*God has ascended with a shout,  
The Lord, with the sound of a trumpet.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is the King of all the earth...  
God reigns over the nations.* (Psalm 47:5-8, NASB)

Then loud voices from heaven announce,  
*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ;  
and He will reign forever and ever.*" (Revelation 11:15, NASB)

On Christ the King Sunday, we rise up together and crown Jesus  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords.  
This is the culmination, not only of each year, but of all history.  
Come, Lord Jesus!

Hymn: [Psalm 72](#)

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