

Lutheran Women in Mission

Free to Worship

by Mary Kuhnau

What is Worship

The word "worship" comes from "worth-ship," meaning to attribute worth to an object. The dictionary defines worship as "to feel an adoring reverence or regard for God." As believers worship is our response to who God is and all He has done for us in Jesus.

How blessed we are to live in a country where we are free to gather for worship! Indeed, we often think of worship in terms of our Sunday service. Yet our worship need not be limited to our time at church. Note what the following verses say about worship:

Psalm 35:18.

- Where is the psalmist worshipping?

Romans 12:1.

- What are we asked to do as an act of worship?

1 Timothy 2:9-10.

- What areas of women's lives are affected because of their worship?

John 4:23-24.

- What kind of worshipers are described? What do you think it means to worship in spirit and in truth? (See **John 14:6**, **1 Corinthians 12:3** and **Philippians 3:3** for some ideas.)

Worship in the Bible

The Bible gives examples of many different elements of worship, whether with other believers or in our private devotions. What ways to worship God do you find in the following verses?

Psalm 46:10

Psalm 47:1

Psalm 61:8

Psalm 149:3

Psalm 150:1-6

If Psalm 150 was being written today, what other musical instruments might be included?

Careful Worship

- What caution concerning worship is given in Isaiah 29:13?
- Look at **Matthew 15:1-9**, where Jesus quotes Isaiah. What does Jesus say about the Pharisees?
- How can you guard against the warnings Jesus gives?

For Reflection

- How can reverence and gratitude toward God be a greater part of your daily life?
- How might you keep the privilege of worship in focus each day?

Closing

One of our goals until Jesus returns is to worship Him continuously in spirit and in truth. We look forward to the day described in **Revelation 5:11-14**, when we will worship with countless angels and every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and on the sea:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

Sing together: "From All that Dwell below the Skies" (Lutheran Worship #440) or "Glorify Thy Name" (The Other Song Book, #49).

Serve the
Lord with
Gladness!
Psalm 100:2

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