

Name:

# Worship Retreat

*"Come, let us worship and bow down,  
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For He is our God,  
And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand."  
(Psalm 95:6-7)*



**GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Jeff Williams*

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## Additional memory verses:

*“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in holy array. (Psalm 29:2)*

*“O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!*

*Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.*

*Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!*

*For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.*

*For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.*

*Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.*

*Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!*

*Ascribe to the LORD glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!*

*Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!” (Ps 96:1-9)*

*“You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:*

*‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.*

*But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”*

*(Jesus to the Pharisees and scribes in Matthew 15:7-9, citing Isa 29:13. See also Ezekiel 33:31-32)*

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)*

*“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgement has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.’” (Revelation 14:6-7)*

## Questions to consider, as we work through the morning...

1. What is the state of our understanding of worship, according to the Bible?
2. In what ways is God’s grace evident in the life of our congregation, specifically in the Lord’s Day corporate worship setting?
3. What is the church’s place in your own life? What is your level of commitment to Christ and His bride? What is that commitment based on?
4. In what ways might consumerism affect your attitude toward the church?
5. In what ways might individualism affect your attitude toward the church?
6. In light of the scriptural teaching of worship, what changes might you make in your typical approach to Sunday and the gathering of God’s people?

## Session 1: Worshippers – Made by God

*“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” (John 4:23)*

### The theme of worship dominates the Bible

*Proskyneo* to bow down; to kiss the hand (usually translated *serve*)

*Latreuo* to give honor; to serve / minister God (usually translated *worship*)

Deuteronomy 10:12-22 *“...what does the LORD your God require of you, but...”*

### False worship and its consequences

Exodus 32:7-28 golden calf

Leviticus 10:1-3 offering “unauthorized fire”

Mal 1:7-10 offering “polluted food” and “blind animals”

Amos 5:21-23 “I hate...your feasts...your solemn assemblies...the noise of your songs...”

Ezek 33:31-33

Matthew 15:1-9

“their heart is far from me...” (not “in spirit”)

“teaching...commandments of men.” (not “in truth”)

**John 4:20-26**      *“...true worshipers...worship... in spirit and truth”*

**Historic background of the Samaritans**

**God makes true worshipers**

**Who worship in spirit**

**...And truth**

**And are called into the “fellowship”**

## Session 2: The Response of a Worshiper, Made by God

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)*

**Levitical language: Spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God**

**The example of incense in the Old Testament:** Exodus 30:34-38

**New Testament parallel:** 2 Corinthians 2:14-15

**Romans 12:1-2** *"living sacrifices, holy and acceptable"*

Recalling the *"mercies of God"*

The response of gratitude

Holy and acceptable (pleasing) to God

Not being *conformed*, squeezed into the world's mold

But being *transformed* by the "*renewing of your mind*"

### **Session 3: When We Worship as a Gathered Assembly**

*“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” (Hebrews 12:22-24)*

**When we gather, we come as an assembly of believers to an audience of One Not under law (“Sinai”) but under grace (“Zion”)... according to the Bible we are made to be worshipers of the Father, commit all of life in worshiping Him in gratitude, and know, that as we assembly, “We come to...”**

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**Discussion notes:**