

Psalm 100 (NIV84)

A psalm. For giving thanks.

1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Well, in all things God's timing is perfect! I didn't specially choose the devotion below as an encouragement for tomorrow's first in-person worship service in three months. Nevertheless there it is, to focus our attention on worship and encourage us to gather on Sundays.

Tomorrow our long-awaited return to church arrives. I know that many of you don't attend services at Messiah Lutheran Church where I am the pastor, but regardless of where you attend church, I hope you are able to attend tomorrow. Gathering for worship gives us all ample reason to "Shout for joy to the LORD."

Certainly "the LORD is good and his love endures forever." Throughout all the trouble and difficulties we have witnessed and experienced personally, "his faithfulness continues" and it will continue.

So, tomorrow as you make your way to church, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise." And may our gracious Lord richly satisfy your spiritual thirst and satiate your spiritual hunger.

A fellow sheep with you in the pasture of our Lord, Pastor Golm

P.S. One last reminder: we will resume in-person services at Messiah TOMORROW, June 21st at 9:30 a.m. Ladies, get out your Easter bonnets! We will be having a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. We will not be having an Easter breakfast this Sunday, but we will be fed with God's Word and Sacrament. I hope to see you there! Please pass this news along to any family members who may not be aware of it. Thanks!

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June 20

Make Every Sunday a Milestone

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Psalm 96:9

Sunday! From early childhood and throughout our life, the word "Sunday" has a special charm for the heart of the believer. To the Christian pilgrim, perhaps no day is more rich with blessed memory, or more bright with golden promise! Sundays are to him the cool and green oases which separate the hot and sandy trails of life. Sundays are the milestones on the way to his Father's house where he pauses to receive tidings from the homeland and to revive his strength and courage for that part of the journey which lies ahead.

Sunday is his day of public worship. All of the hurts, the bruises, the disappointments, the failures, the sorrows, and the sins of the week are taken to God, in humble prayer, pleading for pardon because of the Savior's love. And with forgiveness assured once more and sealed forever by the Gospel's promise, we sing hymns of praise and adoration to the Lord of our salvation.

Does each Sunday find us, as families and as individuals, thus worshipping our Lord? In the statistics of heaven, does each Sunday really find us numbered among the worshippers, or just among those present? Surely we have every reason to make sure that in each service our presence will feel the touch of his presence, and that our worship will be a worship in spirit and in truth!

Let us so order our lives and so discipline our minds that each day of the week will be a preparation for a truly spiritual happening next Sunday. We have an appointment, an audience, with the King of Heaven. "O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker!" Let us prepare our hearts to worship-this Sunday and every Sunday.

Lord Jesus Christ, to us attend, Thy Holy Spirit to us send, With grace to rule us day by day, And lead us in true wisdom's way.

Teach Thou our lips to sing Thy praise, Our hearts in true devotion raise, Our faith increase, and grant us light, That we may know Thy name aright!

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)