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Worship Themes

Acts of the Triune God

✝ God's Act of Creation

Call to Worship Texts

Genesis 1:1

2 Kings 19:15

Nehemiah 9:6

Psalms 24:1-2; 33:6-9; 95:1-6; 100:1-3;

102:25-27; 104:24; 121:1-2; 136:3-9; 148:1-6

Jeremiah 51:15-16

Amos 4:13

Hebrews 1:10-12; 11:3

Revelation 4:11

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

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Men: It is by faith that our minds accept that the whole universe was formed by God's command;

Women: That the world which we see has come into being through what is invisible.

Leader: By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

Men: God also created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him.

Women: Male and female he created them. God saw all that he had made and it was very good.

Unison: You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things; by your will they existed and were created. All praise belongs to you, our Creator, for your works!

Prayer of Adoration

You are worthy, O Lord, and we have been drawn to assemble together this day in Christ's name. We come from a busy week to enter your presence in adoration. We acknowledge that in the beginning you spoke and caused the earth, sun, moon, and all forms of life to come into existence. You spoke and whole galaxies came into being. You spoke and created us male and female in your image.

We look at the world of nature around us and see your handiwork, which calls for praise to be directed to you. The colors and shapes and textures around us point to your creative care. The fragrances and tastes and sounds echo your creativity. How good and pleas-

ant and fitting it is for us to come before you in praise this hour. Fill our hearts with the power of your indwelling Spirit to give you the worship of which you are supremely worthy. Stir our hearts in a fresh way to sing joyfully to you. Then send us forth at the end of the hour to glorify and enjoy you wherever we go this new week. We praise you through the name of Jesus Christ and with the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

† God's Act of Election

Call to Worship Texts

Deuteronomy 7:6–8

Psalm 65:4

John 6:37, 39, 44; 15:16

Acts 13:48

Romans 8:29–30

Ephesians 1:3–5, 11–12; 2:10

2 Thessalonians 2:13

1 Peter 1:1–2

1 Peter 2:9

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons and daughters through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

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People: Therefore we praise your glorious grace, which you have freely given us in Christ whom you love and whom we worship this hour. We praise you for your sovereign and undeserved act of choosing.

Prayer of Adoration

Sovereign Lord, we humbly bow before your throne. You are the Shepherd and we are the sheep. You are the Potter and we are the clay. We come with a sense of awe and wonder that you would take the initiative in eternity past to choose us to receive the free gift of life eternal. We marvel that you reached out and chose us not on the basis of any pre-existing goodness in us, but purely according to the good pleasure of your will. We have no grounds for boasting but only cause to bow before your throne lost in wonder, love, and praise. We desire to worship you this day in preparation for eternity in which we will gather with the elect from all ages and nations to lift up homage before your throne. Accept now our worship as we humbly offer it in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

✠ Christ's Incarnation

Call to Worship Texts

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6

Micah 5:2

Luke 1:68–69; 2:10–13, 14

John 1:14

Galatians 4:4–5

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.

People: He is Christ the Lord!

Leader: We praise the God of grace saying,

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

Leader: Let us all worship him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength proclaiming,

Unison: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! The incarnate Christ, Immanuel, has come among us!

Prayer of Adoration

Almighty God, our Father, we gather to celebrate the coming of your Son into our world. You caused this day to shine with the brightness of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. You gave to us the gift of your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon himself. He humbled himself to be born in the lowly town of Bethlehem in a lowly manger. We rejoice that you sent angelic messengers to announce the good news. You prepared shepherds to come and bow in wonder and awe at the miracle of the incarnation. We would join them around the manger to let you know how much we appreciate the great things you have done for us.

Father, we set aside the rush of holiday shopping, the responsibilities of our careers, and the details of family plans to come apart and meditate on what the birth of Christ means. We stand amazed that you

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would be willing to take the initiative to come to our planet to visit us.

Help us now to sing and pray with appreciative hearts. Open our eyes to see the light shining in the darkness. Open our hearts to receive the living Christ as our Savior. Fill us with the peace which he came to bring, the inner peace which surpasses human understanding. Help us then go forth knowing why this is special good news. This we pray in the name of the one whose birth we celebrate, even our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Amen.

† Christ's Acts of Shepherding

Call to Worship Texts

Psalm 23; 95:1-7; 100

John 10:1-16

Hebrews 13:20-21

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us join our voices to worship our Lord Jesus Christ for his work of shepherding us as the Good Shepherd.

People: Because the Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want. He makes us to lie down in green pastures; he leads us beside the still waters.

Leader: He restores our soul; he leads us in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

People: Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil; for you are with us; your rod and your staff comfort us.

Leader: You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies; you anoint our head with oil; our cup overflows.

People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life; and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. All praise to the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.

Prayer of Adoration

Father, we come to express our appreciation for you as our great Shepherd. We are your sheep whom you know by name. Accept now the praise we as your flock offer in your presence.

We thank you sincerely for your personal shepherding care. You have led us through green pastures and by still waters in the paths of righteousness. You have restored our soul in times of need, and comforted us with your rod and staff. You have not deserted us in times of danger—even in the valley of the shadow of death. You continually remain with us as our loving Shepherd when we drive on the highway, when we work at our jobs, when we relax at home, when we study in the classroom, and even when we travel out of town. How we appreciate your constant shepherding care. Thank you for reaching out when we wander from the path because of temptations, doubts, and discouragements.

Our hearts are full of thanksgiving as we worship through Christ our Chief Shepherd, the Great Shepherd of the sheep. Amen.

✝ **Christ's Act of Redemption**

Call to Worship Texts

Isaiah 53:4–6

Mark 10:45

Romans 3:23–26; 5:6–8

Hebrews 10:19–22

1 Peter 2:24; 3:18

Revelation 1:5–6; 5:9, 10, 12

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Let us join our voices to praise the spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and death.

Congregation: We, whom he has redeemed, will sing praises and shout for joy this hour;

Leader: Because in Christ the Lamb we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins in accordance with the riches of his grace.

Congregation: Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

Leader: Let us praise him saying,

Unison: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb we give worship this hour and forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration

We approach your throne this hour, O God of all grace, with gratitude for the person and work of

Jesus Christ. We come to turn our eyes away from ourselves and on to him. We thank you for planning in eternity past to provide a means of redemption through the sending of your Son. You have provided an ample remedy for the alienation of sin. You have provided one who gave his life blood as our substitute. You enabled him to bear the wrath which we deserved for our disobedience. He willingly endured pain and suffering out of love for us and obedience to you. You made it possible for the blood of Christ to cover over our sins and remove their stain. You have freed us from the weight of guilt and from eternal condemnation. How can we help but love and adore you for the rest of our lives. You have made the ultimate sacrifice to redeem us.

So we come this hour to sing your perfections; to acknowledge what Christ has already accomplished on our behalf. Thank you that his work in past history continues to be efficacious in this century. We glory in the cross because without the cross we would be helplessly lost. We come today resting all our trust for forgiveness and eternal life in the person and work of Christ. Even in the future eternal kingdom we will sing the glories of being redeemed by the Lamb. Accept our worship this hour as we present it through Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Christ's Resurrection

Call to Worship Texts

Job 19:25

1 Corinthians 15:3, 4, 20

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1 Peter 1:3

Revelation 1:4, 5, 17, 18

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is risen.

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: He has made us resurrection people by raising Jesus from the dead.

Leader: Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

People: We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

Leader: God has claimed us as his own.

People: He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Leader: Christ is risen.

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer of Adoration

Our Father God, we come this Easter Day in the name of the living Christ, who has come among us in this sanctuary. We assemble on the day on which your power raised Christ after his atoning death for our sins. We assemble on the day on which your disciples saw the moved stone and empty tomb. We assemble on the same day in which your Son appeared to eyewitnesses in triumph over sin and death. How grateful we are to be part of the stream of believers who down through the generations have celebrated the resurrection.

Accept now the praise of this congregation. Blessed are you for granting us new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Christ. He has opened to us the door to eternal life. We worship him who holds the keys to life and death and lives forevermore as our risen Lord at your right hand. We join the voices of cherubim and seraphim to ascribe honor to the One who has filled us with new life and hope.

Fill our hearts with rejoicing that spills over into the days beyond Easter. May resurrection life and power be evident in our lives because we know him who is the resurrection and the life. This we pray in Christ's name and for his glory. Amen.

Christ's Ascension

Call to Worship Texts

Psalm 24:7–10; 68:17–18

Luke 24:50–52

Acts 1:8–9

Romans 8:34

Ephesians 1:19–21

Colossians 3:1

1 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 4:14–19

1 Peter 3:22

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Christ died and rose again that we might have eternal life.

Congregation: All thanks rightly belongs to Jesus.

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Leader: This same Christ ascended to heaven.

Congregation: He ascended that we might experience God's presence and power. All praise be to God for the ascension.

Prayer of Adoration

Lord God Most High, we come acknowledging that Jesus Christ died and rose again on the third day that we might have eternal life. Forty days later he ascended to heaven in order that we might experience God's presence and power. We give thanks that Christ's earthly mission was completed in obedience to your will. We are humbled that we can now approach your throne through the intercession of Christ. Since we have been raised with Christ, we desire to set our hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at your right hand. Help us to set our minds on heavenly, eternal realities as we by faith ascend and participate in heavenly realities this hour. Accept our worship and thanksgiving, which we now offer through Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

† God's Act of Sending the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Call to Worship Texts

Joel 2:28–32

John 16:5–15

Acts 2:1–21

Ephesians 5:18–20

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day which Jesus promised: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Women: God has poured out his love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Men: We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

Women: The Spirit of the Lord now fills the whole world.

Men: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Unison: May the peoples of all nations of the earth praise you. Come, Holy Spirit, come among us this hour and refresh us that we might glorify the Lord!

Prayer of Adoration

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on us today. We call on you through the name of Jesus Christ. Descend on our hearts in this sanctuary in a fresh way to empower us, to refresh us, to motivate us. How we need your presence to keep us from becoming cold, routine, and mechanical in our worship. How we need your vitality to enable us to sing joyfully. How we need your Spirit to comprehend and apply the truths of Scripture we'll hear this hour. Help us to enter enthusiastically into spirit-filled worship this Pentecost Sunday. Then send us forth from this service to live spirit-filled lives all this week. This we pray in the name of Christ by the power of the Spirit who is among us. Amen.

† Christ's Return

Call to Worship Texts

Psalm 96:11–13; 98:7–9

Daniel 7:13–14

Matthew 24:30–31

Mark 13:26–27

Acts 1:11

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17

Titus 2:11–13

Hebrews 9:27–28

James 5:8

2 Peter 3:10–13

Revelation 1:7; 22:12–13

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Christ, who has come the first time, has promised a second advent. Let us worship in anticipation of his fulfillment of that promise.

Unison: The Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. We honor the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Prayer of Adoration

Our Lord and Savior, the only True God, we thank you that you have come among us just as you have

promised. Along with millions of believers around the world this day, we lift our voices in praise. We join our voices with those of the angels and archangels and all the hosts of heaven above. Stir our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit to express heartfelt worship for Jesus Christ. Fill us with anticipation for his glorious return in the clouds of the skies to usher us into the eternal kingdom of heaven. We anticipate gathering around the throne to continue to glorify and enjoy you forever.

We ask that you might cleanse us of any sins that would create barriers between us and you, or between us and any other brother or sister in Christ. Forgive us through the sacrifice of Christ the Lamb who now sits at your right hand and has opened the door for us to enter the heavenlies as forgiven sinners. We long for the return of Jesus Christ and now raise this prayer in his exalted name. Maranatha. Amen.