

Spiritual

Non-denominational spiritual programs

Morning Prayer – Psalm 98

Preparation & Tips

- Make a large-print copy of the prayers, readings, and hymn lyrics. One version includes [two verses of the hymn](#) for the day, and the other includes [four verses of the hymn](#). Decide ahead of time how many verses you want to sing of the hymn. The first two verses are recommended for an interfaith group and fit with the theme for the day. During the service you can simply say, “We’ll sing two verses.” Remember to stop the music after you have sung the planned number of verses!
- Arrange chairs in a circle or around a table to facilitate discussion.
- Ask a helper to greet everyone as they arrive and distribute the programs.
- If you have a reader with a strong voice who would like to read the Bible passage during the service, give them a marked copy of the program so they will know when their part is coming up.
- In the program outline below, some of the sections have italicized instructions or tips for facilitating discussion.



The Program

Welcome: *Welcome all who have come to the program, and thank by name anyone who is helping by reading, handing out programs, etc.*

Greeting

Leader: Please join me in the greeting that is printed before you:
This is the day that the Lord has made!

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Psalm 98

- ¹ O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.
- ² The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
- ³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

- ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
- ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
- ⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
- ⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Time for Sharing

Start by observing: Psalm 98 reminds us of the great things that God has done and invites us to praise God and make a joyful noise. What are some ways we can make a joyful noise and praise God?

Invite responses. You may prompt with your own ideas or suggest singing, clapping, playing musical instruments, or shouting “Hallelujah! Amen!”

Reflection & Discussion

Psalm 98 tells us to sing and make noise to celebrate God’s greatness, God’s steadfast love and faithfulness. In fact, the Psalm tells the earth itself to make noise: the sea should roar, the floods should clap hands, and the hills should sing!

Another way that we can praise God and make noise is by giving thanks. We can give thanks for God’s love and grace. What else might we give thanks for?

Invite responses. Some ideas are: our lives, family and friends, caregivers, staff, and volunteers. Ask how many people give thanks before a meal, or perhaps when they first wake up in the morning.

We can also give thanks for the *little* things in life, like a cup of tea. What are some of the little things in life that you give thanks for?

Encourage sharing of specifics, such as a favorite song, food, activity, or a person who lifts our spirits with a smile or an encouraging word.

When we give thanks for anything, large or small, we join in the joyful noise praising God. Let’s make some noise and give thanks to God now. Can we say *Amen*? Amen!

HYMN: “How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!



When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Optional verses to sing if desired:

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
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Community Life: *This is a time to share celebrations or concerns. Ask the participants if there are any celebrations today or this week: Any birthdays or anniversaries? Is there any good news? Are there concerns you have, or people we should pray for?*

Prayer

Creator God, we thank you for your steadfast love and for all the gifts—large and small—that you have given us. Help us to remember your goodness every day, that we may faithfully praise you all the days of our lives.

Remembering those who are troubled today, we pray that you will grant your healing touch to those who are sick or injured, and to all who need your special care, that they may be whole in body and mind and spirit. Amen.

Blessing (in unison): May God’s blessing be with each one of us, now and forever. Amen.

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- ² The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
- ³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
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Blessing: May God’s blessing be with each one of us, now and forever. Amen.

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