



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21st, 2021

Join us at 7pm in the Sanctuary or on [Facebook](#) and use this guide to pray along with us.

- **INTRO**

Welcome to Prayer Service! When is the last time you've contemplated the *glory* of God—his majesty, his power, his transcendence, his awesome splendor? As we go about our days through this wild and wonder-full creation, Psalm 29 is here to remind us, "*The LORD sits enthroned as king forever.*" He is above it all. He is more powerful than the most powerful thing we can imagine—because he is the creator and sustainer of it all. In the rough and tumble of daily life, with all its plans and demands, one of the first things we lose is *wonder*. While God is concerned with the details of our lives and wants to walk with us in the every day, we also need to step away from it all sometimes to pause and take the long view: "*Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.*" When we remember how great our God is, we can take this awareness into the mundane details of life and put everything in its proper perspective; we can live in greater freedom from the anxieties and fears and struggles that so easily creep in. Because no matter what we're facing, "*The LORD sits enthroned over the flood.*" Let's allow this awareness to fill our minds again tonight and allow it to direct our prayers for this often chaotic world we inhabit. *Let's pray.*

- **PAUSE**

"As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-center my scattered senses upon the presence of God." (Pete Greig, Lectio365)

"Jesus, I give everything and everyone to you. I give everything and everyone to you, God."
(John Eldredge, Daily Pause)

Pause and pray.

As we read **Psalm 29** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!' ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!"

- **SONGS**

“Revelation Song”

VERSE 1

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

CHORUS

Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You

VERSE 2

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory
And power be to You the only wise King

VERSE 3

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living
water
Such a marv'lous mystery yeah

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- **PSALM 29:1-2**

“¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.”

“Ascribe to the LORD...” This type of invitation would usually be given to a congregation gathered at the Temple as a call to worship, but here, the call is given to the *“heavenly beings.”* The Psalmist calls on the heavenly host of angelic beings to give the glory to the LORD that is due his name. There are lots of implications here, especially in light of how different our modern scientific worldviews are from ancient and biblical worldviews: these ancient Scriptures remind us that no matter how much we discover through our useful sciences and technologies, there is always *“more than meets the eye.”* Reality is more than what we can detect and measure with our God-given, human faculties of reason and observation. In recent decades, the more we’ve discovered about the material universe through science, the more it points us to something greater: these days, the greatest breakthroughs in science (whether the human genome project or the theory of relativity or the “Big Bang”) arguably point us *towards* a creator God rather than away from him.

The point is, as incredible as this universe is, *there’s still more.* There’s a heavenly realm, a whole “world” of spiritual beings created by God, beyond our imagination, that surround the Throne of God and serve his purposes—that’s what the Bible claims. In the Scriptures, whenever a human gets a rare encounter with one of these angelic messengers, the natural response is *fear and awe*: they fall on their faces, they’re overwhelmed. *Really, how would you respond if the presence of a holy angel manifested in your living room to bring you a message from God?!* If this is our instinctive response to one of God’s *created spiritual beings*, how much greater to the Creator himself? How wonderful to think that every time we praise God, we worship him along with *all the host of Heaven.* Every time we come together to worship, it’s so much more than a routine, ordinary thing: our praises literally join with the praises of angels in the highest heaven—and all creation below. Reflect on that, let it fill your imagination as you worship the Lord right now. Worship God. *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 29:3-9**

“³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, ‘Glory!’”

Here, the Psalm uses geographic imagery, particular to that context, which makes it a little hard to relate with. But here’s the basic idea: it’s as if the Psalmist is standing on a high place, overlooking a powerful storm that soars across the land, shaking the very hills and rattling the strongest trees. In all of it, they see the grandeur and glory of God. One commentary remarks: “[God’s] glory is trumpeted by the thunderclaps that rumble through the cloudy mass of winter’s rainstorms as they rise above the Mediterranean Sea, and move from west to east across the face of the sky, sweeping over the Lebanon range and reaching the wilds of northern Kadesh on the upper reaches of the Orontes River. The glory of the Lord is not only visible in creation; it is also audible in creation’s most awesome voice. (The most powerful forces experienced by the ancients were earthquakes, the raging sea, and heavy thunderstorms.)” (The NIV Study Bible © 2011)

“The voice of the LORD” is repeated seven times, each time to show God’s surpassing power over the earthquakes, over the raging waters, over the storms—God’s voice alone is *greater than the most powerful forces we experience*. There’s enough we can observe with our own two eyes in the natural world to move us into awe, but our greater awareness of the vastness and mystery of the universe today brings this awe to a whole new level: when you think of the most powerful forces in creation today, what comes to mind? Contemplate the grandeur of all we can observe in God’s created universe, and the fact that all of it is created and sustained by his own powerful being. Hebrews 11:3 says, “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” Worship God. *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 29:**

“¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!”

“The LORD sits enthroned as king forever.” Over all. Above everything. What fears are troubling your mind right now? What chaotic aspects of the world take your attention off the Lord and threaten to become greater than God in your life? Take anything, great or small, that seems to be *competing with the power of God* and lay it down at the throne of God: remember that *God is greater*. If we worship him *above all else*, there is *nothing* that we really need to fear. *Pause and Pray.*

- **SONG**

“How Great Thou Art”

VERSE 1

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 pow'r thru'out
The universe displayed

CHORUS

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

VERSE 2

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

VERSE 3

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

VERSE 4

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

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- **Closing**

“Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way. Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet. Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen.” (Pete Greig, Lectio365)