

Sunday, February 22nd, 2026
Sermon Series: "From Ashes to Light."
"Worship" *Psalm 95.1-7; Mark 12.29-31.*
(Lent)

Worship—The "Heartbeat" of the Church

Matthew 4.10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall **worship** the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

προσκυνέω (*proskyneō*): "Adoration" ("To bow" "To kiss")

Anglo-Saxon: "Weorthscipe" ("worship")

The Focus of Worship... Love

Mark 12.29-30 ...Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Psalm 95.1-2, 6 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!... ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! ...

The Gift of Worship... Gospel Rest (Word and Sacrament)

Psalm 95.3-5, 7 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land...⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand...

"The service and worship of the Gospel is to receive good things from God." (*Apology to the Augsburg Confession*, IV.310)

Mark 12.31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Hebrews 10.24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The *Normative Principle*

(Corporate church worship services must include the practices that the Bible commands and may include other elements as long as Scripture does not *prohibit* the practice). What Scripture commands/commends...

*Singing and Music (*Colossians 3:16*)

*Prayer (*1 Timothy 2:1*)

*Reading Scripture (*1 Timothy 4:13*)

*Preaching (*2 Timothy 4:2*)

*The Lord's Table (*1 Corinthians 11:17-34*)

*Financial Giving (*2 Corinthians 8-9*)

Lutheran Tradition

“[T]he Evangelical Lutheran Church has shown a preference for the word service. The chief gathering of Christians on a Sunday morning is called the Divine Service. In the Divine Service, God serves us. He gives us His Word and Sacraments. Only after we have received the Word and the gifts that He offers do we respond in our sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise. The Divine Service (liturgy) is God giving to us and our responding to Him.” (Roger D. Pittelko, *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice*, 45).