

ON OUR WAY REJOICING

We tend to think of the last segment of the worship service as mere packaging—a simple way of wrapping up the service in a tidy bow. But that’s way off the mark. In the conclusion of the service God sends us on our way to live out what has been revealed to us through the reading and preaching of the Word and through the sacraments. In so doing, God assures us and accompanies us with God’s blessing.

That parting blessing isn’t just an idle promise. Sure, it sends us back out through those solid oak doors to face the challenges of our daily lives. But it also assures us that God isn’t just slamming those doors shut behind us and leaving us to fend for ourselves for another week. We leave accompanied by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. In other words, through the Spirit, God leaves church, hops into our car, and heads back home right along with us. That ongoing fellowship with God keeps us safe, secure, joyful, refreshed, challenged and ever on our toes.

We expect—and we certainly will find—what that parting blessing promises: peace. Sure, we’ll continue to face tears, frustrations, depression, anxiety, and lots of challenges. But God’s peace will accompany us in spite of the cross we’re challenged to bear. We’re promised the fullness of life that only God’s Spirit can bring us as we go out to live in true faith, love, and hope.

So worship doesn’t end with the conclusion of the service!
In fact, it begins there.

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WORSHIP AND WORK ARE ONE

Think of *worship* as *worth-ship*. As best we can, in our services, we use words and music and art to verbalize God’s true worth. But that’s not nearly enough. As we leave church we also want to show God’s true worth by holy and devoted living every day of the week. By humbly and lovingly minding God’s business in our relationship and in our lives, we allow God’s Spirit and Word to radiate some of God’s true glory around us. We’ll be God’s image-bearers as we were originally designed to be.

Most of us only spend an hour or two each week at church in a worship service. But our opportunity to worship God in all of our lives makes our daily chores take on new meaning and purpose as we faithfully carry them out. We dedicate them all to God. That’s what makes them all so very important because they bring glory to our great God. As God’s kids we lovingly stick up for our heavenly Father’s good name and reputation.

So the *worth-ship* that we bring to God in our Sunday services spills over into all our daily living. That’s how it should be. It’s going to take us more than our three-score and ten to glorify God enough. It’s going to take us an eternity. God is so great that we’ll never, ever be “worshiped out.” When we may see God face to face, it’ll just get better and better.

John Witvliet, Bob De Moor,
Sunday Morning Live

Living Worship



January, 2012

Blessing *Bless You*

God is Blessed When We...

Ask Him for Help
Petition

Listen to Him
Illumination

Thank Him
Gratitude

Love Him
Praise

Share Blessings with Others
Blessing

Take Our Questions to Him
Lament

Say We Are Sorry
Confession

Serve Him
Service

Psalm 84:5
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

John 7:37-39
On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice,

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”

By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.



Daily Scripture Readings to teach us about Blessing

January, 2012

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|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <i>Psalm 84:5</i> <i>John 7:37-39</i> | 2 <i>Gen 12:1-4</i> | 3 <i>Gen. 39:1-4</i> | 4 <i>Acts 2:1-4</i> | 5 <i>Acts 2:36-41</i> | 6 <i>II Tim.1:5-8, 14</i> | 7 <i>Romans 15:13</i> |
| 8 <i>John 7:38</i> | 9 <i>Ruth 2:8-12</i> | 10 <i>Numbers 6:24-27</i> | 11 <i>II Cor 13:14</i> | 12 <i>I Thes. 5:23, 24</i> | 13 <i>Joel 2:28, 29</i> | 14 <i>Psalm 1</i> |
| 15 <i>Psalm 51:1-17</i> | 16 <i>Heb. 13:20, 21</i> | 17 <i>I Cor 2</i> | 18 <i>Gal. 5:22-26</i> | 19 <i>Phil. 2:1-18</i> | 20 <i>I Peter 1:3-16</i> | 21 <i>Jude :17-25</i> |
| 22 <i>2 Tim. 1:7</i> | 23 <i>Psalm 37:25-31</i> | 24 <i>I John 3:21-24</i> | 25 <i>III John:2-4</i> | 26 <i>II Thess.2:13-17</i> | 27 <i>Psalm 136</i> | 28 <i>Psalm 84:10-12</i> |
| 29 <i>Psalm 8</i> | 30 <i>Psalm 146</i> | 31 <i>Philemon 1:4-7</i> | | | | |

Go, my children, with My Blessing,
never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
You are my own.
In my love's baptismal river,
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love
you,
what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at
peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished,
Closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
Here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.

I, the Lord, will bless and keep you,
And give you peace.
I, the Lord, will smile upon you,
And give you peace.
I, the Lord, will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you,
And give you peace
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*When do you experience God's
blessing?*

How can you bless others?

*How might you be a
New **You** for
A New Year?*

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WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING