

Day 7

The Joy of Worship

Scripture Reading

Psalm 95:1–7

Key Verse

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."

Psalm 95:6

Today's Devotional

As we conclude the first week of our journey together, it is fitting that we end where all of life is meant to lead us—worship.

When many people hear the word *worship*, they immediately think of music. While singing is certainly an important expression of worship, the Bible presents a much richer picture. Worship is the joyful response of a heart that recognizes who God is and gladly gives Him the honor He deserves.

Psalm 95 is an invitation. Notice the progression.

"Let us sing for joy..."

"Let us shout joyfully..."

"Let us come before His presence..."

"Let us worship and bow down..."

True worship begins with celebration, but it always leads to surrender.

We praise God because He is the great Creator. We bow before Him because He is our sovereign King. We rejoice because He is our Shepherd and we are His people.

That perspective changes everything.

As our church prepares for September 20, our greatest goal is not simply to add another worship service. Our goal is to create another opportunity for people to encounter the greatness of God through His Word, His people, and the proclamation of the gospel.

A full sanctuary is encouraging.

A larger volunteer team is wonderful.

Healthy growth is something for which we should thank God.

But none of those things is the ultimate goal.

The ultimate goal is worship.

Every new family that joins us.

Every child who learns about Jesus.

Every teenager who trusts Christ.

Every marriage strengthened.

Every baptism celebrated.

Every sermon preached.

Every song sung.

Every cup of coffee served in Christ's name.

Every greeting at the front door.

Every lesson taught.

Every prayer offered.

All of it is worship when it is done for the glory of God.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism begins with a question that has guided believers for centuries:

"What is the chief end of man?"

Its answer is beautifully simple:

"To glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

That is why we exist as individuals.

That is why Riva Trace Baptist Church exists.

That is why we are praying.

Not so that our church will become known.

But so that Christ will become known.

Not so that our attendance will increase.

But so that His glory will increase.

As we prepare for another week of prayer, may worship remain at the center of everything we do.

For where Christ is exalted, hearts are drawn to Him.

Think About It

1. Is worship something I experience only on Sundays, or is it becoming a way of life?
2. What motivates my service in the church—recognition or worship?
3. How can I intentionally glorify Christ in ordinary moments this week?

Today's Prayer

Lord,

You alone are worthy of all praise.

Thank You for saving me, sustaining me, and inviting me into Your family.

May every ministry of our church become an act of worship.

Prepare our hearts so that when September 20 arrives, people will not leave talking about our church—they will leave talking about our Savior.

Receive all the honor, glory, and praise.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Today's Fast

Choose one activity that normally occupies your attention today.

Instead, spend that time reading aloud one or more Psalms of praise (Psalms 95, 96, 100, or 103).

Let your heart delight in God's greatness.

Prayer Focus

Pray that every worship service at Riva Trace Baptist Church would faithfully exalt Jesus Christ and clearly proclaim the gospel.