



▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

Saturday/Sunday, 5/12-13/18
“A New Song”

Psalm 96

*Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

*For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.*

*For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.*

*Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.*

*Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.*

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.*

*Worship the LORD in the splendor of his^[a] holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.*

Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns.”

*The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.*

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.*

*Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.*

*Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.*

*He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

Family Activity: The book of Psalms in the Bible is a collection of songs written for God. Pick one or two Psalms to read together this week and see if you can imagine what kind of music it would sound like.

Things to Try:

- Make a playlist of your favorite faith-based songs. Play them the next time you are in the car.
- Write your own song to God. Sing it for your family.

Monday, 5/14/18

“Deliverance”

Isaiah 42:10

*Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the ends of the earth,
you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it,
you islands, and all who live in them.*

- Isaiah is writing during the Babylonian captivity, when Israel was conquered by the Babylonians and taken into exile there. After foretelling the deliverance of Israel from the Babylonians, Isaiah offers up this song of praise to God for his deliverance and faithfulness. This “new” deliverance that God is to accomplish for Israel demands a “new song”; a new way of relating to and praising God. In what ways have you experienced deliverance? What new things has God done in your life? How has your praise of God been made new?
- Our worship cannot fully capture God’s greatness. God’s greatness is always new. Our “new song” is a product of new affections toward God, clothed with new expressions, as a result of God’s new work in our lives. Think about/describe a time when your love of God took on new expression, as a result of something God did in your life. What was that like? How has that experience changed how you understand God?

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for the new mercies you pour out. Help my response to be an expression of thanksgiving for all that you are and do. Help me to live a life of praise to you, that you may be glorified. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Tuesday, 5/15/18

“Worship”

Psalms 63:1-5

*You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.*

*I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.*

- The “new song” in our hearts is often expressed through worship as a thirst or longing for God, the source of all we are and have. Do you ever long for God? How do you express that longing? What other ways, besides worship, can you use to express your longing for God?
- St. Augustine, in the 5th century, says of God, “You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” What do you think it means to be made for God? Have you experienced the restlessness that Augustine describes? In what ways?

Prayer: Holy God, may my heart rest in you. May my lips glorify you as I seek to live a life of worship in your presence. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Wednesday, 5/16/18

“The Glory of God”

Job 12:7-10

*But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.*

*Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind.*

- This passage from Job echoes what the Psalms say about all of creation declaring the glory of God. It is God who gives life, breath and sustaining grace to all of creation, including you and me. All throughout scripture it is asserted that this reality is the source of all praise of God — the source of a new song of praise. What do you think it means to declare the glory of God?
- In what ways do you see God’s creation declaring his glory? What does it look like for you to declare the glory of God in your day-to-day life?

Prayer: Holy God, I praise you for the gift of life and breath, and for your grace that sustains me. Thank you for the ways that you make yourself known through your creation, and for your glory that it reveals. Help me to declare your glory in all of my days. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Thursday, 5/17/18

“Self-Giving Love”

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- The self-giving love of God, shown through Jesus’ crucifixion, was the source of the Apostle Paul’s conversion. Paul’s conversion brought about a new song in his heart and enabled him to live a new life reflecting God’s self-giving love. What does it mean to you that God loves you and gave himself for you?
- What does it mean for Christ to live in you? What expressions of praise does that elicit in you? How might you “sing a new song” by living self-sacrificially day-to-day?

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for loving me and giving yourself for me. Help me to live into the reality of your love poured out for me on the Cross. Enable and empower me by your Holy Spirit to live self-sacrificially in my day-to-day life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, 5/18/18

“Song of the Lamb”

Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying:

*“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”*

- In the book of Revelation, John is contrasting the old song of Moses, with the new song of the Lamb. John is saying that everything (life, breath, salvation, redemption, restoration, etc.) hinges on the sacrificial love of the Lamb, Jesus. This reality brings about new mercies which demand new expressions of praise and thanksgiving. The slain Lamb of God, Jesus, has begun his reign, and we are invited to reign with Jesus through faith in him. What do you think it means for us to be a kingdom and priests? What do you think it means to reign with him on earth?
- What “new song” does this elicit in your heart?

Prayer: Holy God, our hearts are filled with praise of you. We thank you that in Jesus we are given new life and new hope in the restoration of all of creation, and in the awesome call to reign with you. Help us to serve you with everything that we are and have. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**This week's devotional was written by Pastor Jake Schneider
(jschneider@plattewoodschurch.org).**