

## **ELEMENT OF WORSHIP:**

### **Songs of Praise**

*We sing praises to God for who he is and for what he has done*

#### **DEFINITION**

The Songs of Praise are our response to God in worship. In these songs, we declare God's goodness and praises.

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

There's a reason we sing together in church. When we join voices in singing Songs of Praise, it is helpful to think both vertically and horizontally. We come to sing of who God is and what he's done for us. In singing praises to God, we are engaging in the vertical aspect of worship. And, as we sing, we are also declaring God's truth to ourselves and to each other. In other words, we are engaging horizontally. This is the pattern of worship seen throughout the Bible - from the Psalms to the New Testament letters (Ephesians 5:18-21; Colossians 3:16-17). We sing in community because it can be hard to sing alone. When your voice falls silent, the voice of your sister or brother beside you sings Songs of Praise to God and for you.

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## APPLICATION

Consider the vertical and horizontal aspects of your day. How might you integrate both elements of worship throughout the day? First, consider your vertical worship - how might you praise God for who he is and what he's done? Second, consider horizontal worship. How will you encourage others today to see God for who he is and what he's done?

*Dear God,*

*Thank you that I can approach you in worship. Will you make my life into a living sacrifice so that I may worship you in all that I do? Make me into someone who praises you often and encourages those around me.*

*Amen.*

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*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.*

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.*

**Psalm 95:1-7**