

Christian Worship Subject Guide

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Christian worship, simply put, is the praise and adoration of God, both on an individual basis, as well as in the context of a body of Christians. This subject guide provides resources for the study of Christian worship from the first century to the present. The focus of this guide is to give an overview of Christian worship throughout history as opposed to focusing on a particular aspect of worship, such as church music (but certainly this guide can be a springboard for researching church music, or any other aspect of worship).

Introductory Resources

- ***Subject Introduction***

"The Purpose and Meaning of Worship"

Ralph P. Martin

Chapter 10 (pp 139-155) in *Leadership Handbooks of Practical Theology: Word & Worship*

James D. Berkley, ed.

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1992

[BV3 .L33 1992](#) (v.1)

- ***Reference Books***

Complete Library of Christian Worship

Robert E. Webber, ed.

Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993

[BV10.2 .C65 1993](#) (vs.1-7)

This 7-volume series includes articles written by over 600 contributors and covers areas such as Old and New Testament worship, the history of worship, Sunday worship, music and the arts in worship, and services of the Christian year.

Leadership Handbooks of Practical Theology: Word & Worship

James D. Berkley, ed.

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1992

[BV3 .L33 1992](#) (v.1)

As the title implies, this volume focuses on both preaching and worship. It attempts to provide a historical and theological understanding of worship, as well as practical application material, such as how to administer the Lord's Supper and performing baptisms.

New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship

Peter E. Fink, ed.

Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1990

[BV173 .N485 1990](#)

The purpose of this volume according to the editorial preface is to "celebrate and to serve the ongoing task of liturgical reform and renewal" within the Roman Catholic church. It contains articles from almost 200 Catholic scholars with topics that range from the Jewish roots of Christian worship and sacramental theology to liturgical dance and technology.

New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship

J.G. Davies, ed.

Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1986

[BV173 .N49 1986](#)

This volume is a revision of the Westminster Dictionary of Worship, and adds material from more than 100 contributors that includes trends in worship over the last few decades. New articles include such topics as the feminist liturgical movement, ecumenical worship, cremation, and house churches.

Oxford History of Christian Worship

Geoffrey Wainwright and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker, eds.

Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 2006

[BV15 .O95 2006](#)

Written by an international and ecumenical group of 40 contributors, the Oxford History of Christian Worship uses text, pictures and boxed inserts to cover Christian worship over the last two thousand years. It is basically arranged chronologically, but also by geography and confessional identity. Additional chapters feature music, spatial setting, and the visual arts.

Find Books & Media

Resources in the APU University Libraries can be found by using the [APOLIS2](#) online catalog.

- **LC Subject Headings & Call Number Ranges**

Liturgics	BV 169-199
Public Worship	BV 15-530

Public Worship - History
Worship
Worship - History
BV 15-530

- **Books**

Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship
David Peterson
Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993
[BS680 .W78 P47 1993](#)

Introduction to Christian Worship
James F. White
Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2000
[BV176 .W48 2000](#)

Sacred Games: A History of Christian Worship
Bernhard Lang
New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997
[BV10.2 .L36 1997](#)

Worship, Community & the Triune God of Grace
James B. Torrance
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996
[BV15 .T67 1997](#)

Worship, Old & New: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Introduction
Robert E. Webber
Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994
[BV15 .W4 1994](#)

- **Media by Subject**

[Public Worship](#)
[Worship](#)

- **Subject Bibliographies**

A Bibliography of Christian Worship
Bard Thompson
Philadelphia, PA: American Theological Library Association/Metuchen, NJ:
Scarecrow Press, 1989
[Z7813 .B5 1989](#)

Theological and Religious Reference Materials, Practical Theology
 G.E. Gorman and Lyn Gorman
 New York, NY: Greenwood Press, 1986
[Z7825.4 .G67 1986](#)

- **Resources in Non-APU Libraries**

[LINK+](#) LINK+ is a single catalog for 40+ California libraries that have a cooperative borrowing and lending arrangement for books only. This service is for APU faculty, staff and students, and is free. Items usually come within 2-3 work days.

[WorldCat](#) WorldCat is a single catalog for hundreds of North American and international libraries. Books and other library resources may be requested from this catalog through the [interlibrary loan](#) service. This service is for APU faculty, staff and students, and costs \$2.00 per item requested. Items usually come within 7-10 work days.

Find Journal Articles

Resources in the APU University Libraries can be found by using the [APOLIS2](#) online catalog. Besides the print collection of journals, you may also obtain journal articles through many of APU Libraries' [online databases](#).

- **Journals**

Journal Title	Available Formats
Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching & the Arts	Print
Liturgy	Online
Modern Liturgy	Print
Reformed Liturgy & Music	Print
Worship	Online

- **Print Indexes**

Guide to Social Science and Religion in Periodical Literature
 Flint, MI: National Periodical Library
[Z7753 .G83](#) (vs.5-42)

Search for articles under the “Christian Worship” heading.

- **Databases**

For a description of each database, go to the [online resources page](#) and look up the database by title.

[Academic Search Premier](#)
[ATLA Religion Database with ATLAS](#)
[Christian Periodical Index](#)
[OmniFile Full Text Mega](#)
[ProQuest Religion](#)

- **Getting Journal Articles**

[Periodical Finder](#)

Sometimes while using a database, article records are found without any corresponding full-text article. Use Periodical Finder to see whether or not the article can be found in full-text in a different database. It can also be used to look up the full-text availability of items found in bibliographies.

[Articles not at APU](#)

If a journal article is unavailable in either the print journal collection or one of the online databases, it can be requested through the [interlibrary loan](#) service.

Internet Resources

- **Professional Organizations and/or Government Agency Websites**

[American Academy of Religion](#)
[Council of Societies for the Study of Religion](#)

- **Other Websites**

[Christian Classics Ethereal Library \(CCEL\)](#)

CCEL is an excellent online repository of hundreds of classic Christian works from the first century all the way through to modern times. To find items relevant to worship, enter "liturgy OR worship" and look for these terms in the full text.

[Internet Theology Resources: Liturgical Studies and Liturgical Music](#)

This site contains dozens of links to several primary sources, as well as to various lectionaries and liturgical texts.

[Frank Henderson's Page on Liturgy and Medieval Women](#)

This site attempts to address the question "In what ways were medieval women 'visible' in worship?," and includes hundreds of links and bibliographic resources on this topic.

[Renaissance Liturgical Imprints](#)

Renaissance Liturgical Imprints is a "database of information about worship books printed before 1601," and focuses on Renaissance Europe.

[Wabash Center: Liturgics](#)

This list of over 50 links relevant to Christian worship is part of the Wabash Center site, which "supports teachers of religion and theology in higher education."

- **Free Online Journals**

[Christian Century](#)

[Christianity Today](#)

[McMaster Journal of Theology and Ministry](#)

[Word & World: Theology for Christian Ministry](#)

- **Blogs/RSS Feeds**

Christianity Today:

Page: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/>

Feed: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/lyris/rss/ctmag.xml>

Don't have a feed reader? Try Google Reader (<https://www.google.com/reader/>) or Bloglines (<http://www.bloglines.com/>).