

Universal Worship Readings
“Sanctuary that Functions as a Sacred Space
to Perform Religious Rites and Ceremonies”
November 9, 2025

Hinduism

(Krishna to Arjuna...)

O son of Pritha, those who are not deluded—the great souls—are under the protection of the Divine Nature. They are fully engaged in devotional service because they know Me as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, original and inexhaustible. Always chanting My glories, endeavoring with great determination, bowing down before Me, these great souls perpetually worship Me with devotion.

Others, who are engaged in the cultivation of knowledge, worship the Supreme Lord as the one without a second, diverse in many and in the universal form.

But it is I who am the ritual, I the sacrifice, the offering to the ancestors, the healing herb, the transcendental chant. I am the butter and the fire and the offering. I am the father of this universe, the mother, the support and the grandsire. I am the object of knowledge, the purifier and the syllable Om...

I am the goal, the sustainer, the master, the witness, the abode, the refuge and the most-dear friend. I am the creation and the annihilation, the basis of everything, the resting place and the eternal seed.

O Arjuna, I control heat, the rain and the drought. I am immortality and I am also death personified. Both being and nonbeing are in Me.

Bhagavad Gita, 9:13-19 (Swami Prahbhata translation)

Buddhism

The Buddha then said to the Bodhisattvas: Twice a month I recite the precepts observed by all Buddhas... This precept-light shines forth from my mouth. It does not arise without a cause. This light is neither blue, yellow, red, white, nor black. It is neither form, nor thought. It is neither existent nor nonexistent, neither cause nor effect. This precept-light is precisely the original source of all Buddhas and all members of this Great Assembly. Therefore, all you disciples of the Buddha should receive and observe, read, recite and study these precepts with utmost attention.

Brahma Net Sutra, Young Men's Buddhist Association of America

Zoroastrianism

(Prayers said routinely by worshippers...)

Yatha:

As the Lord wills, so shall the righteous leader act, according to the will of the Wise Lord. The gift of good mind (Vohu Manah) is for those who work for the Lord, and for the rule of the Lord, He gives a shepherd for the poor and downtrodden.

Ashem Vohu:

Righteousness is the best good and it is happiness. Happiness is to him/her who is righteous for the sake of the best righteousness.

Avesta

Confucianism

If you lead through laws and regulations and maintain order through punishments people will avoid them, but won't develop a sense of shame. If you lead through virtue and keep them in line with ritual, they will develop a sense of shame and unite behind you.

The Analects of Confucius, Book 2:3 (Richard Brown translation)

Indigenous

You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in a circle and that is because the power of the world only works in circle and everything tries to be round. In the old days, when we were a strong and happy people, all our power came to us from the sacred hoop of the nation and so long as the circle was unbroken the people flourished. The flowering tree was the living Center of the hoop, and the circle of the four quarters nourished it. The East gave peace and light, the South gave warmth, the West gave the rain and the North, with its cold and mighty wind, gave strength and endurance. This knowledge came to us from the outer world with our religion. Everything the power of the world does is done in a circle. The sky is round, and I've heard that the earth is round like a ball and so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down in a circle. The moon does the same, and both are round. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing and always come back to where they were. The life of a man is a circle from childhood-to-childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves. Our teepees are round like the nests of birds, and these were always set in a circle. The nation's hoop, a nest of many nests, where the Great Spirit meant for us to hatch our children.

Black Elk Speaks, Ch 17

Judaism

(Hadran-Ritual prayers said after the completion of Torah & Talmud studies...)

Please make it sweet, G-d our G-d, the words of Your Torah. In our mouths and in the mouths of your nation the House of Israel. And it should be that we, all of us, our children and the children of your nation the House of Israel, that we should all know Your name and learn Your Torah. *Psalms 119:98*

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. *Psalms 119:80*

Let my heart be complete in Your statutes, in order that I may not be put to shame. *Psalms 119:93*

I will never forget Your precepts; for with them You have quickened me. *Psalms 119:12*

Blessed are You, O G-d, teach me Your statutes.

Psalms, Hadran-Ritual prayers, presented by Sefaria

Christianity

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you; I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Matthew 26:26-29, New Revised Standard Version

Islam

Those who patiently persevere, seeking the countenance their Lord, establish regular prayers, spend out of the gifts We have bestowed for their sustenance (secretly and openly), and turn off evil with good—for such, there is the final attainment of the Eternal Home.

Quran 13:22

Truth

(A method of purifying one's heart is to repeat every morning and every evening...)

My thoughtful self: Reproach no one. Hold a grudge against no one. Bear malice against no one.

Be wise, tolerant, considerate, polite and kind to all.

The Wisdom of Sufism, Hazrat Inayat Khan