

BROWN BUTTER PINEAPPLE UPSIDE DOWN CAKE

BAKE OVEN 350

INGREDIENTS:

Yield: One 9-inch cake,

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Bake Time: 38–45 minutes

Cooling Time: 10 minutes

Oven Temperature: 350°F

Pan: 9-inch round cake pan
or 8-inch square stoneware

Brown-Butter Fruit Topping

- * 6 tablespoons (85 g) salted butter
- * $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (150 g) firmly packed dark brown sugar
- * Approximately 1 fresh ripe pineapple, peeled, cored, and sliced $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick
- * 8–12 fresh ripe dark-red cherries, pitted and halved
- * $\frac{1}{3}$ cup (38 g) chopped pecans, optional



Tender Vanilla–Pineapple Cake

- * $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups (188 g) all-purpose flour
- * $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking powder
- * $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon baking soda
- * $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- * $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (113 g) salted butter, softened
- * $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (150 g) granulated sugar
- * 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- * $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- * $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (120 g) sour cream, at room temperature
- * $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (60 ml) fresh pineapple juice
- * 2 tablespoons (30 ml) milk or half-and-half

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Butter the bottom and sides of an 8-inch square stoneware baker; line the bottom with parchment.
2. Peel, core and slice pineapple $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick. Pit and halve cherries. Blot all fruit well.
3. Brown 6 tablespoons butter in a light-colored saucepan until golden and nutty. Pour butter and browned bits into the baker; sprinkle evenly with brown sugar.
4. Arrange pineapple over the sugar. Place cherries rounded-side down between the pieces; add pecans, if desired.
5. Whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt together.
6. Beat softened butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time, then vanilla.
7. Combine sour cream, pineapple juice and milk. Add dry ingredients to butter mixture alternately with sour-cream mixture, beginning and ending with flour. Mix just until combined.
8. Carefully spread batter over fruit. Bake 38–45 minutes, until a tester comes out clean or the center reaches 200–205°F. Cover loosely with foil if browning too quickly.
9. Cool exactly 10 minutes. Run a knife around the sides, invert onto a serving plate and gently peel away parchment. Serve warm or at room temperature

THE CAKE SHE CHOSE TO BAKE

SCRIPTURE

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

Every family has a story.

Some begin just as we imagined. Others take unexpected turns that no one could have planned.

My mother's story took one of those unexpected turns when my father's 14-year-old son arrived at our front door with a suitcase. His mother had brought him unannounced to live with us.

Mom hadn't asked for this new chapter. She didn't like surprises, and she certainly hadn't chosen the circumstances. Like many blended families, ours experienced difficult days as everyone adjusted to a new reality.

Still, she opened the door.

She prepared meals.

She cared for another, somewhat wild teenager.

And every year, when his birthday came around, she baked his favorite dessert—this pineapple upside-down cake.

As a little girl born several years later, I simply knew it as "Bob's favorite cake." I never realized that each birthday cake represented something much deeper than flour, butter, sugar, and pineapple.

It was another quiet choice to be faithful.

My mother wasn't pretending the past hadn't happened. She wasn't denying that life had become more complicated than she had expected. She simply chose not to let disappointment determine how she treated the child God had placed in her home.

Years later, I can see what I couldn't understand as a child.

By God's grace, the children in our home grew into adults who came to love the Lord and have sought to honor Him with their lives. Only heaven will reveal all the ways God used my mother's

faithful Christian witness—the prayers she prayed, the meals she prepared, the conversations she had, and yes, even the birthday cakes she lovingly baked year after year.

God often accomplishes His greatest work through ordinary acts of faithful obedience repeated over a lifetime.

A meal prepared with love.

A child welcomed.

A prayer faithfully offered.

A favorite birthday cake baked every year.

Never underestimate what God can do through a heart that quietly keeps saying,

"Yes, Lord."

SCRIPTURE:

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

— 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

Today, this recipe tells another chapter of that story.

I've kept my mother's recipe, browned the butter, added fresh sweet cherries, and this time used a pineapple grown in our own garden. The recipe has continued its journey through another generation, but the lesson remains unchanged.

Reflection:

Take a quiet moment with the Lord and honestly ask yourself:

Has God ever asked me to love someone I didn't choose?

What simple act of faithfulness has God placed in my hands this week?

If someone observed my daily life, would they see the love of Christ reflected in the ordinary things I do?

What legacy of faith am I leaving for those who will come after me?

Journal Prompt

1. Who has God placed in your life that requires faithful love rather than easy love? How is He asking you to serve that person today?
2. Looking back, whose quiet acts of faithfulness helped shape your walk with Christ? Thank God for the legacy they left.
3. What is one ordinary act of obedience—your own "birthday cake"—that God is asking you to keep offering faithfully, even if no one else notices?

Prayer

Holy Father,

You are always faithful, even when life unfolds in ways I never expected. Thank You for showing me perfect love through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Sometimes the people You place in my life are difficult to love. Sometimes old hurts make obedience feel costly. Help me and I will choose faithfulness over resentment, kindness over bitterness, and obedience over convenience.

Give me eyes, show me and I will see the quiet opportunities You place before me each day. Remind me and I will remember that no act of love done in Your name is ever small in Your Kingdom. Remind me that if I do something for someone here, I have done it for You.

May my ordinary life become an extraordinary testimony of Your grace.

Thank You for the generations who have faithfully pointed others toward You, and help me leave behind a legacy that honors Christ.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.
