

Week Two + Saturday Evening

O God, come to our assistance.

O Lord, hasten to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was before,
is now,
and ever more.

Psalm 149

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song;

 sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful!

Let Israel celebrate its maker;

 let Zion's children rejoice in their king!

Let them praise God's name with dance;

 let them sing God's praise with the drum and lyre!

Because the Lord is pleased with his people,

 God will beautify the poor with saving help.

Let the faithful celebrate with glory;

 let them shout for joy on their beds.

Let the high praises of God be in their mouths

 and a double-edged sword in their hands,

 to get revenge against the nations

 and punishment on the peoples,

 binding their rulers in chains

 and their officials in iron shackles,

 achieving the justice

 written against them.

That will be an honor for all God's faithful people.

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 142

I cry out loud for help from the Lord.

I beg out loud for mercy from the Lord.

I pour out my concerns before God;

I announce my distress to him.

When my spirit is weak inside me, you still know my way.

But they've hidden a trap for me in the path I'm taking.

Look right beside me: See?

No one pays attention to me.

There's no escape for me.

No one cares about my life.

I cry to you, Lord, for help.

"You are my refuge," I say.

"You are all I have in the land of the living."

Pay close attention to my shouting,

 because I've been brought down so low!

Deliver me from my oppressors

 because they're stronger than me.

Get me out of this prison

 so I can give thanks to your name.

Then the righteous will gather all around me

 because of your good deeds to me.

Psalm 106

Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,

 because his faithful love endures forever.

Who could possibly repeat all of the Lord's mighty acts

 or publicly recount all his praise?

The people who uphold justice,

 who always do what is right, are truly happy!

Remember me, Lord, with the favor you show your people.

Visit me with your saving help

 so I can experience the good things your chosen ones experience,

so I can rejoice in the joy of your nation,
so I can praise along with your possession.
We have sinned—right along with our ancestors.
We've done what is wrong.
We've acted wickedly.
Our ancestors in Egypt didn't understand your
wondrous works.
They didn't remember how much faithful love you
have.
So they rebelled by the sea—at the Reed Sea.
But God saved them for the sake of his good name,
to make known his mighty power.
God scolded the Reed Sea, and it dried right up;
he led them through the deeps like they were a dry
desert.
God saved them from hostile powers;
he redeemed them from the power of the enemy.
But the waters covered over their foes—
not one of them survived!
So our ancestors trusted God's words;
they sang God's praise.
But how quickly they forgot what he had done!
They wouldn't wait for his advice.
They were overcome with craving in the desert;
they tested God in the wastelands.
God gave them what they asked for;
he sent food to satisfy their appetites.
But then they were jealous of Moses in the camp,
jealous too of Aaron, the Lord's holy one.
So the earth opened up, swallowing Dathan,
and covering over Abiram's crowd.
Fire blazed throughout that whole group;
flames burned up the wicked.
They made a calf at Horeb,
bowing down to a metal idol.
They traded their glorious God

for an image of a bull that eats grass.
They forgot the God who saved them—
the one who had done great things in Egypt,
wondrous works in the land of Ham,
awesome deeds at the Reed Sea.
So God determined that he would destroy them—
except for the fact that Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the way, right in front of him,
and turned God's destructive anger away.
But then they rejected the land that was so desirable.
They didn't trust God's promise.
They muttered in their tents
and wouldn't listen to the Lord's voice.
So God raised his hand against them,
making them fall in the desert,
scattering their offspring among the nations,
casting them across many lands.
They joined themselves to Baal-peor
and ate sacrifices offered to the dead.
They made God angry by what they did,
so a plague broke out against them.
Then Phinehas stood up and prayed,
and the plague was contained.
That's why Phinehas is considered righteous,
generation after generation, forever.
But they angered God at Meribah's waters,
and things went badly for Moses because of them,
because they made him bitter
so that he spoke rashly with his lips.
They didn't destroy the nations
as the Lord had ordered them to do.
Instead, they got mixed up with the nations,
learning what they did
and serving those false gods,
which became a trap for them.

They sacrificed their own sons and daughters to demons!
 They shed innocent blood,
 the blood of their own sons and daughters—
 the ones they sacrificed to Canaan’s false gods—
 so the land was defiled by the bloodshed.
 They made themselves unclean by what they did; they prostituted themselves by their actions.
 So the Lord’s anger burned against his people;
 he despised his own possession.
 God handed them over to the nations;
 people who hated them ruled over them.
 Their enemies oppressed them,
 and they were humbled under their power.
 God delivered them numerous times,
 but they were determined to rebel,
 and so they were brought down by their own sin.
 But God saw their distress
 when he heard their loud cries.
 God remembered his covenant for their sake,
 and because of how much faithful love he has,
 God changed his mind.
 God allowed them to receive compassion
 from all their captors.
 Lord our God, save us!
 Gather us back together from among all the nations
 so we can give thanks to your holy name
 and rejoice in your praise!
 Bless the Lord, the God of Israel,
 from forever ago to forever from now!
 And let all the people say, “Amen!”
 Praise the Lord!

Psalm 134

All you who serve the Lord: bless the Lord right now!

All you who minister in the Lord’s house at night:
 bless God!
 Lift up your hands to the sanctuary
 and bless the Lord!
 May the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth,
 bless you from Zion.

Scripture Reading James 1:2-6b, MSG

“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. If you don’t know what you’re doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You’ll get his help, and won’t be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
The lifting of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

God of glory, we praise you for your presence in our lives, and for all goodness that you shower upon your children in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for
 —promises kept and hope for tomorrow...
 —the enjoyment of friends...
 —the wonders of your creation...
 —love from our parents, our sisters and brothers, our spouses and children...
 —pleasures of living...

God of grace, we are one with all your children, for we are sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, and we offer

our prayers for all whom we love. Especially we pray for

- those we too often forget...
- people who have lost hope...
- victims of tragedy and disaster...
- those who suffer mental anguish...
- ecumenical councils and church agencies...

We remember the “All others who could benefit from our prayers” and “prayers for upcoming events and the leaders” portions of our Friday prayer chain...

Our Father...

Protect your people, O God,
and keep us safe
until the coming of your new dawn
and the establishment of your righteous rule.
By your Holy Spirit,
stir up within us a longing
for the light of your new day,
and guide us by the radiance of Jesus Christ
your Son, our risen Lord.
Amen.

*May the Lord bless us,
grant us a peaceful night,
and a perfect rest.
Amen.*

References:

Psalms from CEB;
Scripture from The Message; Prayers from BCW