

+Week One + Saturday Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You created the day and the night, O God;
you set the sun and the moon in their places;
you set the limits of the earth;
you made summer and winter. (Ps.74:16,17, GNB)

Psalm 119:n

I love your Instruction!
I think about it constantly.
Your commandment makes me wiser than my
enemies
because it is always with me.
I have greater insight than all my teachers
because I contemplate your laws.
I have more understanding than the elders
because I guard your precepts.
I haven't set my feet on any evil path
so I can make sure to keep your word.
I haven't deviated from any of your rules
because you are the one who has taught me.
Your word is so pleasing to my taste buds—
it's sweeter than honey in my mouth!
I'm studying your precepts—
that's why I hate every false path.

Psalm 60

God, you have rejected us—
shattered us.
You've been so angry.
Now restore us!

You've made the ground quake,
splitting it open.
Now repair its cracks
because it's shaking apart!
You've made your people suffer hardship;
you've given us wine and we stagger.

Give a flag to those who honor you,
so they can rally around it,
safe from attack.
Save us by your power and answer us
so that the people you love might be rescued.

God has spoken in his sanctuary:
"I will celebrate as I divide up Shechem
and portion out the Succoth Valley.

Gilead is mine;
Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet;
Judah is my scepter.

But Moab is my washbowl;
I'll throw my shoe at Edom.
I shout in triumph over Philistia!

I wish someone would bring me to a fortified city!
I wish someone would lead me to Edom!"
But you have rejected us, God, haven't you?
God, you no longer accompany our armies.

Give us help against the enemy;
human help is worthless.
With God we will triumph;
he's the one who will trample our adversaries.

Psalm 64

Listen to me when I complain, God!
Protect my life from the enemy's terror!
Hide me from the secret plots of wicked people;
hide me from the schemes of evildoers.

They sharpen their tongues like swords.
They aim their arrow—a cruel word—
from their hiding places
so as to shoot an innocent person.
They shoot without warning and without fear.

They encourage themselves with evil words.
They plan on laying traps in secret.
“Who will be able to see them?” they ask.
“Let someone try to expose our crimes!

We've devised a perfect plot!
It's deep within the human mind and heart.”

But God will shoot them with an arrow!
Without warning, they will be wounded!
The Lord will make them trip over their own tongues;
everyone who sees them will just shake their heads.

Then all people will honor God,
will announce the act of God,
will understand it was God's work.
Let the righteous rejoice in the Lord;
let them take refuge in him;
let everyone whose heart is in the right place give
praise!

Psalm 107

“Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,
because his faithful love lasts forever!”

That's what those who are redeemed by the Lord say,
the ones God redeemed from the power of their
enemies,
the ones God gathered from various countries,
from east and west, north and south.

Some of the redeemed had wandered into the desert,
into the wasteland.
They couldn't find their way to a city or town.
They were hungry and thirsty;
their lives were slipping away.

So they cried out to the Lord in their distress,
and God delivered them from their desperate
circumstances.
God led them straight to human habitation.

Let them thank the Lord for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people,
because God satisfied the one who was parched
with thirst,
and he filled up the hungry with good things!

Some of the redeemed had been sitting in darkness
and deep gloom;
they were prisoners suffering in chains
because they had disobeyed God's instructions
and rejected the Most High's plans.
So God humbled them with hard work.
They stumbled, and there was no one to help them.

So they cried out to the Lord in their distress,
and God saved them from their desperate
circumstances.
God brought them out from the darkness and deep
gloom; he shattered their chains.

Let them thank the Lord for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people,
because God has shattered bronze doors
and split iron bars in two!

Some of the redeemed were fools because of their
sinful ways.

They suffered because of their wickedness.
They had absolutely no appetite for food;
they had arrived at death's gates.

So they cried out to the Lord in their distress,
and God saved them from their desperate
circumstances.

God gave the order and healed them;
he rescued them from their pit.

Let them thank the Lord for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people.
Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and declare what God has done in songs of joy!

Some of the redeemed had gone out on the ocean in
ships,
making their living on the high seas.
They saw what the Lord had made;
they saw his wondrous works in the depths of the
sea.

God spoke and stirred up a storm
that brought the waves up high.
The waves went as high as the sky;
they crashed down to the depths.

The sailors' courage melted at this terrible situation.

They staggered and stumbled around like they were
drunk.

None of their skill was of any help.
So they cried out to the Lord in their distress,
and God brought them out safe from their desperate
circumstances.

God quieted the storm to a whisper;
the sea's waves were hushed.
So they rejoiced because the waves had calmed
down;
then God led them to the harbor they were hoping
for.

Let them thank the Lord for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people.
Let them exalt God in the congregation of the people
and praise God in the assembly of the elders.

God turns rivers into desert,
watery springs into thirsty ground,
fruitful land into unproductive dirt,
when its inhabitants are wicked.

But God can also turn the desert into watery pools,
thirsty ground into watery springs,
where he settles the hungry.
They even build a city and live there!

They plant fields and vineyards
and obtain a fruitful harvest.
God blesses them, and they become many.
God won't even let their cattle diminish.

But when they do diminish—

when they're brought down by oppression, trouble,
and grief—God pours contempt on their leaders,
making them wander aimlessly in the wastelands.
But God raises the needy from their suffering;
he makes their families as numerous as sheep!

Those who do right see it and celebrate,
but every wicked person shuts their mouth.
Whoever is wise will pay attention to these things,
carefully considering the Lord's faithful love.

Psalm 117

Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Worship him, all you peoples!
Because God's faithful love toward us is strong,
the Lord's faithfulness lasts forever!
Praise the Lord

Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be in my mouth.
I praise the Lord—
let the suffering listen and rejoice.

Magnify the Lord with me!
Together let us lift his name up high!
I sought the Lord and he answered me.
He delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to God will shine;
their faces are never ashamed.
This suffering person cried out:
the Lord listened and saved him from every trouble.

On every side, the Lord's messenger protects those
who honor God; and he delivers them.

Taste and see how good the Lord is!
The one who takes refuge in him is truly happy!

You who are the Lord's holy ones, honor him,
because those who honor him don't lack a thing.
Even strong young lions go without and get hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Come, children, listen to me.
Let me teach you how to honor the Lord:
Do you love life;
do you relish the chance to enjoy good things?

Then you must keep your tongue from evil
and keep your lips from speaking lies!
Turn away from evil! Do good!
Seek peace and go after it!

The Lord's eyes watch the righteous,
his ears listen to their cries for help.
But the Lord's face is set against those who do evil,
to eliminate even the memory of them from the
earth.

When the righteous cry out, the Lord listens;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;
he saves those whose spirits are crushed.

The righteous have many problems,
but the Lord delivers them from every one.
He protects all their bones;
not even one will be broken.

But just one problem will kill the wicked,

and those who hate the righteous will be held responsible.

The Lord saves his servants' lives;

all those who take refuge in him

won't be held responsible for anything.

Scripture Reading Ezek 34:11-12, 15-16, JPS

“For thus said the Lord GOD: Here I am! I am going to take thought for My flock and I will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some [animals] in his flock have gotten separated, so I will seek out My flock, I will rescue them from all the places to which they were scattered on a day of cloud and gloom...I Myself will graze My flock, and I Myself will let them lie down—declares the Lord GOD. I will look for the lost, and I will bring back the strayed; I will bandage the injured, and I will sustain the weak; and the fat and the healthy ones I will destroy. I will tend them rightly.”

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Satisfy us with your love in the morning,
and we will live this day in joy and praise.

Great and wonderful God, we praise and thank you for the gift of renewal in Jesus Christ.

Especially we thank you for

—opportunities for rest and recreation . . .

—the regenerating gifts of the Holy Spirit . . .

—activities shared by young and old . . .

—fun and laughter . . .

—every service that proclaims your love. . . .

You make all things new, O God, and we offer our prayers for the renewal of the world and the healing of its wounds. Especially we pray for

—those who have no leisure . . .

—people enslaved by addictions . . .

—those who entertain and enlighten . . .

—those confronted with temptation . . .

—the church in North America. . . .

Today I lift up in prayer:

Donald & Kathie Riek; Bruce & Pam Robetor; Elice Robetor; Pat Robinson; Dennis & Marie Rodgers; Zachary & Alyssa Rodgers; David & Cheryl Rogers; Laura Ross; Dave & Jalene Royle; Emily Royle; Buzz & Jann VanDyke; Carolyn Garrison, Ken Gay & Deanna; Sebastian Gay; Kim Pickens & Ernie Gibson; Jean Goss; Kathy Grant; John & Fran Gregos; Stephen, Jessica, Chris & Stefanie Hadley; Stephanie Hamilton...

Our Father...

God our creator, yours is the morning and yours is the evening. Let Christ the sun of righteousness shine forever in our hearts and draw us to that light where you live in radiant glory.

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

*May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen*

References: Psalm from CEB; Prayers from BCW; Scripture from Tanakh, Jewish Publication Soc.