

## Week Two + Sunday Morning

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

The Lord's unfailing love and mercy never cease,  
Fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise.  
*(Lam. 3:22-23)*

### Psalm 119:9

I hate fickle people,  
but I love your Instruction.  
You are my shelter and my shield—  
I wait for your promise.  
Get away from me, you evildoers;  
I want to guard my God's commandments!  
Sustain me according to your word so I can live!  
Don't let me be put to shame because of hope.  
Support me so I can be saved  
and so I can focus constantly on your statutes.  
You discard everyone who strays from your statutes  
because they are dishonest and false.  
You dispose of all the wicked people on earth like  
waste—  
that's why I love your laws.  
My body shudders because I fear you;  
I'm in awe of your rules.

### Psalm 1

The truly happy person  
doesn't follow wicked advice,  
doesn't stand on the road of sinners,  
and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.  
Instead of doing those things,  
these persons love the Lord's Instruction,

and they recite God's Instruction day and night!  
They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,  
which bears fruit at just the right time  
and whose leaves don't fade.

Whatever they do succeeds.  
That's not true for the wicked!  
They are like dust that the wind blows away.  
And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the  
court of justice—  
neither will sinners  
in the assembly of the righteous.  
The Lord is intimately acquainted  
with the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

### Psalm 2

Why do the nations rant?  
Why do the peoples rave uselessly?  
The earth's rulers take their stand;  
the leaders scheme together  
against the Lord and  
against his anointed one.  
"Come!" they say.  
"We will tear off their ropes  
and throw off their chains!"  
The one who rules in heaven laughs;  
my Lord makes fun of them.  
But then God speaks to them angrily;  
then he terrifies them with his fury:  
"I hereby appoint my king on Zion,  
my holy mountain!"  
I will announce the Lord's decision:  
He said to me, "You are my son,  
today I have become your father.  
Just ask me,  
and I will make the nations your possession;

the far corners of the earth will be your property.  
You will smash them with an iron rod;  
you will shatter them like a pottery jar.”  
So kings, wise up!  
Be warned, you rulers of the earth!  
Serve the Lord reverently—  
trembling, kiss his feet  
or else he will become angry,  
and your way will be destroyed  
because his anger ignites in an instant.  
But all who take refuge in the Lord are truly happy!

### **Psalm 3**

Lord, I have so many enemies!  
So many are standing against me.  
So many are talking about me:  
“Even God won’t help him.”  
But you, Lord, are my shield!  
You are my glory!  
You are the one who restores me.  
I cry out loud to the Lord,  
and he answers me from his holy mountain.  
I lie down, sleep, and wake up  
because the Lord helps me.  
I won’t be afraid of thousands of people  
surrounding me on all sides.  
Stand up, Lord!  
Save me, my God!  
In fact, hit all my enemies on the jaw;  
shatter the teeth of the wicked!  
Rescue comes from the Lord!  
May your blessing be on your people!

### **Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd.  
I lack nothing.

He lets me rest in grassy meadows;  
he leads me to restful waters;  
he keeps me alive.  
He guides me in proper paths  
for the sake of his good name.  
Even when I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no danger because you are with me.  
Your rod and your staff—  
they protect me.  
You set a table for me  
right in front of my enemies.  
You bathe my head in oil;  
my cup is so full it spills over!  
Yes, goodness and faithful love  
will pursue me all the days of my life,  
and I will live in the Lord’s house  
as long as I live.

### **Psalm 128**

Everyone who honors the Lord,  
who walks in God’s ways, is truly happy!  
You will definitely enjoy what you’ve worked hard for—  
you’ll be happy; and things will go well for you.  
In your house, your wife will be like a vine full of fruit.  
All around your table, your children will be like olive  
trees, freshly planted.  
That’s how it goes for anyone who honors the Lord:  
they will be blessed!  
May the Lord bless you from Zion.  
May you experience Jerusalem’s goodness your  
whole life long.  
And may you see your grandchildren.  
Peace be on Israel!

### **Psalm 93**

The Lord rules!

He is robed in majesty—  
the Lord is robed,  
clothed with strength.  
Yes, he set the world firmly in place;<sup>[a]</sup>  
it won't be shaken.  
Your throne is set firm for a very long time.  
You are eternal!  
Lord, the floods have raised up—  
the floods have raised up their voices;  
the floods raise up a roar!  
But mightier than the sound of much water,  
mightier than the sea's waves,  
mighty on high is the Lord!  
Your laws are so faithful.  
Holiness decorates your house, Lord, for all time.

### **Psalm 118**

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,  
because his faithful love lasts forever.  
Let Israel say it:  
“God's faithful love lasts forever!”  
Let the house of Aaron say it:  
“God's faithful love lasts forever!”  
Let those who honor the Lord say it:  
“God's faithful love lasts forever!”  
In tight circumstances, I cried out to the Lord.  
The Lord answered me with wide-open spaces.  
The Lord is for me—I won't be afraid.  
What can anyone do to me?  
The Lord is for me—as my helper.  
I look in victory on those who hate me.  
It's far better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust any human.  
It's far better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust any human leader.  
All the nations surrounded me,

but I cut them down<sup>[b]</sup> in the Lord's name.  
Yes, they surrounded me on every single side,  
but I cut them down in the Lord's name.  
They surrounded me like bees,  
but they were extinguished like burning thorns.  
I cut them down in the Lord's name!  
I was pushed so hard I nearly died,  
but the Lord helped me.  
The Lord was my strength and protection;  
he was my saving help!  
The sounds of joyful songs and deliverance  
are heard in the tents of the righteous:  
“The Lord's strong hand is victorious!  
The Lord's strong hand is ready to strike!  
The Lord's strong hand is victorious!”  
I won't die—no, I will live  
and declare what the Lord has done.  
Yes, the Lord definitely disciplined me,  
but he didn't hand me over to death.  
Open the gates of righteousness for me  
so I can come in and give thanks to the Lord!  
This is the Lord's gate;  
those who are righteous enter through it.  
I thank you because you answered me,  
because you were my saving help.  
The stone rejected by the builders  
is now the main foundation stone!  
This has happened because of the Lord;  
it is astounding in our sight!  
This is the day the Lord acted;  
we will rejoice and celebrate in it!  
Lord, please save us!  
Lord, please let us succeed!  
The one who enters in the Lord's name is blessed;  
we bless all of you from the Lord's house.  
The Lord is God!

He has shined a light on us!  
So lead the festival offering with ropes  
all the way to the horns of the altar.  
You are my God—I will give thanks to you!  
You are my God—I will lift you up high!  
Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,  
because his faithful love lasts forever.

### **Psalm 63**

God! My God! It's you—  
I search for you!  
My whole being thirsts for you!  
My body desires you  
in a dry and tired land,  
no water anywhere.  
Yes, I've seen you in the sanctuary;  
I've seen your power and glory.  
My lips praise you  
because your faithful love  
is better than life itself!  
So I will bless you as long as I'm alive;  
I will lift up my hands in your name.  
I'm fully satisfied—  
as with a rich dinner.  
My mouth speaks praise with joy on my lips—  
whenever I ponder you on my bed,  
whenever I meditate on you  
in the middle of the night—  
because you've been a help to me and I shout for  
joy in the protection of your wings.  
My whole being clings to you;  
your strong hand upholds me.  
But what about those people who want to destroy me?  
Let them go into the bowels of the earth!  
Let their blood flow by the sword!  
Let them be food for wild jackals!

But the king should rejoice in God;  
everyone who swears by God should give praise  
when the mouths of liars are shut for good.

**+Scripture Reading                      Ezek 36:24-28, JPS**

“I will take you from among the nations and gather you from all the countries, and I will bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all you fetishes. And I will give you a new heart and put a new sprit into you: I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh; and I will put My spirit into you. Thus I will cause you to follow My laws and faithfully observe My rules. Then you shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers, and you shall be My people and I will be your God.”

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

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

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. Especially we thank you for

- the beauty of your creation . . .
- the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .
- the sustaining love of family and friends . . .
- the fellowship of faith in your church. . .

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray for  
—those who govern nations of the world . . .

- the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .
- all who work for peace and international harmony . . .
- all who strive to save the earth from destruction . . .
- the church of Jesus Christ in every land. . .

I lift up in prayer today:

Bill & Sue Porter; Carol Preslar; Charles & Patti Presnell, Steve & JoEllen Preston; Muki Quinta, Lois Ragonese, Laura Reed; Jon, Brenda, Ian & Oliver Reinke; Katy Reinke; Don & Pam Repsher; Keith & Sandy Reynolds, Brad, Christina, Hunter & Chase Harper; Heather Hayden; Debi & Tom Hayden; Jean Hayhurst; Brian Heinicke; Bill & Julie Hellman, Russ Herig; John Hewitt; Denise & Abbey Hintze; Dale & Laura Hogg...

**Our Father...**

Eternal God,  
our beginning and our end,  
be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day’s journey.  
Use our hands  
to do the work of your creation,  
and use our lives  
to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all.  
Amen.

*May the Lord bless us,  
protect us from all evil*

*and bring us to everlasting life.  
Amen.*

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**References:**

*Psalms from CEB; Prayers from BCW  
Scripture from Tanakh, Jewish Publication Society*