

Week Two + Thursday 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 44

We have heard it, God, with our own ears;
our ancestors told us about it:
about the deeds you did in their days,
in days long past.
You, by your own hand, removed all the nations,
but you planted our ancestors.
You crushed all the peoples,
but you set our ancestors free.
No, not by their own swords
did they take possession of the land—
their own arms didn't save them.
No, it was your strong hand, your arm,
and the light of your face
because you were pleased with them.
It's you, God! You who are my king,
the one who orders salvation for Jacob.
We've pushed our foes away by your help;
we've trampled our enemies by your name.
No, I won't trust in my bow;
my sword won't save me
because it's you who saved us from our foes,
you who put those who hate us to shame.
So we glory in God at all times
and give thanks to your name forever.
But now you've rejected and humiliated us.
You no longer accompany our armies.

You make us retreat from the enemy;
our adversaries plunder us.
You've handed us over like sheep for butchering;
you've scattered us among the nations.
You've sold your people for nothing,
not even bothering to set a decent price.
You've made us a joke to all our neighbors;
we're mocked and ridiculed by everyone around us.
You've made us a bad joke to the nations,
something to be laughed at by all peoples.
All day long my disgrace confronts me,
and shame covers my face
because of the voices of those
who make fun of me and bad-mouth me,
because of the enemy who is out for revenge.
All this has come upon us,
but we haven't forgotten you
or broken your covenant.
Our hearts haven't turned away,
neither have our steps strayed from your way.
But you've crushed us in the place where jackals[b]
live,
covering us with deepest darkness.
If we had forgotten the name of our God
or spread out our hands to some strange deity,
wouldn't God have discovered it?
After all, God knows every secret of the heart.
No, God, it's because of you that we are getting killed
every day—
it's because of you that we are considered sheep
ready for slaughter.
Wake up! Why are you sleeping, Lord?
Get up! Don't reject us forever!
Why are you hiding your face,
forgetting our suffering and oppression?
Look: we're going down to the dust;

our stomachs are flat on the ground!
Stand up! Help us!
Save us for the sake of your faithful love.

Psalm 25

I offer my life to you, Lord.
My God, I trust you.
Please don't let me be put to shame!
Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!
For that matter,
don't let anyone who hopes in you
be put to shame;
instead, let those who are treacherous without
excuse be put to shame.
Make your ways known to me, Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—
because you are the God who saves me.
I put my hope in you all day long.
Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love—
they are forever!
But don't remember the sins of my youth or my
wrongdoing.
Remember me only according to your faithful love
for the sake of your goodness, Lord.
The Lord is good and does the right thing;
he teaches sinners which way they should go.
God guides the weak to justice,
teaching them his way.
All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful
for those who keep his covenant and laws.
Please, for the sake of your good name, Lord, forgive
my sins, which are many!
Where are the ones who honor the Lord?
God will teach them which path to take.
They will live a good life,

and their descendants will possess the land.
The Lord counsels those who honor him;
he makes his covenant known to them.
My eyes are always looking to the Lord
because he will free my feet from the net.
Turn to me, God, and have mercy on me
because I'm alone and suffering.
My heart's troubles keep getting bigger—
set me free from my distress!
Look at my suffering and trouble—
forgive all my sins!
Look at how many enemies I have
and how violently they hate me!
Please protect my life! Deliver me!
Don't let me be put to shame
because I take refuge in you.
Let integrity and virtue guard me
because I hope in you.
Please, God, save Israel from all its troubles!

Psalm 57

Have mercy on me, God;
have mercy on me
because I have taken refuge in you.
I take refuge
in the shadow of your wings
until destruction passes by.
I call out to God Most High—
to God, who comes through for me.
He sends orders from heaven and saves me,
rebukes the one who tramples me.
God sends his loyal love and faithfulness.
My life is in the middle of a pack of lions.
I lie down among those who devour humans.
Their teeth are spears and arrows;
their tongues are sharpened swords.

Exalt yourself, God, higher than heaven!
Let your glory be over all the earth!
They laid a net for my feet to bring me down;
they dug a pit for me,
but they fell into it instead!
My heart is unwavering, God—
my heart is unwavering.
I will sing and make music.
Wake up, my glory!
Wake up, harp and lyre!
I will wake the dawn itself!
I will give thanks to you,
my Lord,
among all the peoples;
I will make music to you among the nations
because your faithful love
is as high as heaven;
your faithfulness reaches the clouds.
Exalt yourself, God, higher than heaven!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

Psalm 48

In the city belonging to our God,
the Lord is great and so worthy of praise!
His holy mountain is a beautiful summit,
the joy of the whole world.
Mount Zion, in the far north,
is the city of the great king.
God is in its fortifications,
revealing himself as a place of safety.
Look: the kings assembled themselves,
advancing all together—
when they saw it, they were stunned;
they panicked and ran away frightened.
Trembling took hold of them right there—
like a woman giving birth,

or like the east wind when it smashes
the ships of Tarshish.
Just like we had heard,
now we've seen it for ourselves
in the city of the Lord of heavenly forces,
in the city of our God.
May God make it secure forever!
We dwell on your faithful love, God,
in your temple.
Your praise, God, just like your reputation,
extends to the far corners of the earth.
Your strong hand is filled with righteousness.
Let Mount Zion be glad;
let the towns of Judah rejoice
because of your acts of justice!
Walk around Zion;
go all the way around it;
count its towers.
Examine its defenses closely;
tour its fortifications
so that you may tell future generations:
"This is God,
our God, forever and always!
He is the one who will lead us
even to the very end."

Psalm 28

I cry out to you, Lord.
You are my rock; don't refuse to hear me.
If you won't talk to me,
I'll be just like those going down to the pit.
Listen to my request for mercy when I cry out to you,
when I lift up my hands to your holy inner sanctuary.
Don't drag me off with the wicked and those who do
evil;
the type who talk nice to their friends

while evil thoughts are in their hearts!
 Pay them back for what they've done!
 Pay them back for their evil deeds!
 Pay them back for their handiwork!
 Give back to them exactly what they deserve!
 Because they have no regard for what the Lord has
 done,
 no regard for his handiwork,
 God will tear them down and never rebuild!
 Bless the Lord
 because he has listened to my request for mercy!
 The Lord is my strength and my shield.
 My heart trusts him.
 I was helped, my heart rejoiced,
 and I thank him with my song.
 The Lord is his people's strength;
 he is a fortress of protection for his anointed one.
 Save your people, God!
 Bless your possession!
 Shepherd them and carry them for all time!

Psalm 129

From youth, people have constantly attacked me—
 let Israel now repeat!—
 from youth people have constantly attacked me—
 but they haven't beaten me!
 They plowed my back like farmers;
 they made their furrows deep.
 But the Lord is righteous—
 God cut me free from the ropes of the wicked!
 Let everyone who hates Zion be ashamed, thoroughly
 frustrated.
 Let them be like grass on a roof
 that dies before it can be pulled up,
 which won't fill the reaper's hand
 or fill the harvester's arms.

Let no one who passes by say to them:
 "May the Lord's blessing be on you!
 We bless you in the Lord's name!"

Scripture Reading

Hosea 14:5-8a, Alter

"I will heal their rebellion,
 I will love them freely,
 for My wrath has turned back from them.
 I will be like dew to Israel.
 He shall blossom like the lily
 and strike root like Lebanon.
 His branches shall go forth
 and his glory be like the olive tree,
 and his fragrance like Lebanon.
 Those who dwell in his shade shall come back,
 they shall give life to new grain,
 and like the vine they shall blossom."

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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

Loving God, as the rising sun chases away
 the night, so you have scattered the power of
 death in the rising of Jesus Christ, and you bring
 us all blessings in him. Especially we thank you
 for
 —the community of faith in our church . . .
 —those with whom we work or share common
 concerns . . .
 —the diversity of your children . . .
 —indications of your love at work in the world . . .
 —those who work for reconciliation. . . .

Mighty God, with the dawn of your love you reveal your victory over all that would destroy or harm, and you brighten the lives of all who need you. Especially we pray for

- families suffering separation . . .
- people different from ourselves . . .
- those isolated by sickness or sorrow . . .
- the victims of violence or warfare . . .
- the church in the Pacific region. . .

I lift up in prayer:

Jerry Noland, Tom Nicholson, Chuck & Karen Nichols;
Lois Myers & Colin; Terrie Morrison; James & Kay
Moore; Mike, Nikki, Abbey, Tessa & Max Monroe;
Margaret Miles; Mike Miles...

Our Father...

O God,
you are the well-spring of life.
Pour into our hearts the living water of your grace,
that we may be refreshed to live this day in joy,
confident of your presence
and empowered by your peace,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

References:

*Psalms from CEB; Prayers from BCW
Micah translation by Robert Alter, from "The Hebrew
Bible"*