

Week Two + Wednesday 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 119: 1

Let my cry reach you, Lord;
help me understand according to what you've said.
Let my request for grace come before you;
deliver me according to your promise!
Let my lips overflow with praise
because you've taught me your statutes.
Let my tongue declare your word,
because all your commandments are righteous.
Let your power help me
because I have chosen your precepts.
Lord, I long for your saving help!
Your Instruction is my joy!
Let me live again so I can praise you!
Let your rules help me!
I've wandered off like a sheep, lost.
Find your servant
because I haven't forgotten
your commandments!

Psalm 97

The Lord rules! Let the earth rejoice!
Let all the islands celebrate!

Clouds and thick darkness surround God.

His throne is built on righteousness and justice.

Fire proceeds before him,

burning up his enemies on every side.

His lightning lights up the world;

the earth sees it and trembles!

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,

before the Lord of the whole world!

Heaven has proclaimed God's righteousness,

and all nations have seen his glory.

All those who worship images,

those who are proud of idols,

are put to shame.

All gods bow down to the Lord!

Zion has heard and celebrates,

the towns of Judah rejoice,

because of your acts of justice, Lord,

because you, Lord, are the Most High

over all the earth,

because you are so superior to all other gods.

Those of you who love the Lord, hate evil!

God guards the lives of his faithful ones,

delivering them from the power of the wicked.

Light is planted like seed for the righteous person;

joy too for those whose heart is right.

Rejoice in the Lord, righteous ones!

Give thanks to his holy name!

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Should I fear anyone?

The Lord is a fortress protecting my life.

Should I be frightened of anything?

When evildoers come at me trying to eat me up—

it's they, my foes and my enemies,

who stumble and fall!

If an army camps against me,
my heart won't be afraid.
If war comes up against me,
I will continue to trust in this:
I have asked one thing from the Lord—
it's all I seek:
to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life,
seeing the Lord's beauty
and constantly adoring his temple.
Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling
during troubling times;
he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent;
he will set me up high, safe on a rock.
Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding
me,
and I will offer sacrifices in God's tent—
sacrifices with shouts of joy!
I will sing and praise the Lord.
Lord, listen to my voice when I cry out—
have mercy on me and answer me!
Come, my heart says, seek God's face.
Lord, I do seek your face!
Please don't hide it from me!
Don't push your servant aside angrily—
you have been my help!
God who saves me,
don't neglect me!
Don't leave me all alone!
Even if my father and mother left me all alone,
the Lord would take me in.
Lord, teach me your way;
because of my opponents, lead me on a good path.
Don't give me over to the desires of my enemies,
because false witnesses and violent accusers
have taken their stand against me.
But I have sure faith

that I will experience the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living!
Hope in the Lord!
Be strong! Let your heart take courage!
Hope in the Lord!

Psalm 52

Hey, powerful person!
Why do you brag about evil?
God's faithful love lasts all day long.
Your tongue devises destruction:
it's like a sharpened razor, causing deception.
You love evil more than good;
you love lying more than speaking what is right.
You love all destructive words;
you love the deceiving tongue.
But God will take you down permanently;
he will snatch you up,
tear you out of your tent,
and uproot you from the land of the living!
The righteous will see and be in awe;
they will laugh at those people:
"Look at them! They didn't make God their refuge.
Instead, they trusted in their own great wealth.
They sought refuge in it—to their own
destruction!"
But I am like a green olive tree in God's house;
I trust in God's faithful love forever and always.
I will give thanks to you, God, forever,
because you have acted.
In the presence of your faithful people,
I will hope in your name because it's so good.

Psalm 62

Only in God do I find rest;
my salvation comes from him.

Only God is my rock and my salvation—
my stronghold!—I won't be shaken anymore.
How long will all of you attack others;
how long will you tear them down[b]
as if they were leaning walls or broken-down
fences?

The only desire of this people
is to bring others down low;
they delight in deception.

With their mouths they bless,
but inside they are cursing.

Oh, I must find rest in God only,
because my hope comes from him!

Only God is my rock and my salvation—
my stronghold!—I will not be shaken.

My deliverance and glory depend on God.

God is my strong rock.

My refuge is in God.

All you people: Trust in him at all times!

Pour out your hearts before him!

God is our refuge!

Human beings are nothing but a breath.

Human beings are nothing but lies.

They don't even register on a scale;

taken all together they are lighter than a breath!

Don't trust in violence;

don't set false hopes in robbery.

When wealth bears fruit,

don't set your heart on it.

God has spoken one thing—

make it two things—

that I myself have heard:

that strength belongs to God,

and faithful love comes from you, my Lord—

and that you will repay

everyone according to their deeds.

Psalm 130

I cry out to you from the depths, Lord—
my Lord, listen to my voice!

Let your ears pay close attention to my request for
mercy!

If you kept track of sins, Lord—

my Lord, who would stand a chance?

But forgiveness is with you—

that's why you are honored.

I hope, Lord.

My whole being hopes,

and I wait for God's promise.

My whole being waits for my Lord—

more than the night watch waits for morning;

yes, more than the night watch waits for morning!

Israel, wait for the Lord!

Because faithful love is with the Lord;

because great redemption is with our God!

He is the one who will redeem Israel

from all its sin.

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:12-17, CEB

"...as God's choice, holy and loved, put on
compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and
patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone
has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other.
As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other.
And over all these things put on love, which is the
perfect bond of unity. The peace of Christ must
control your hearts—a peace into which you were
called in one body. And be thankful people. The word
of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each
other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and
spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your
hearts. Whatever you do, whether in speech or action,

do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.”

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
O God, in you I trust.

Give us your peace, O God, that we may rejoice in your goodness to us and to all your children, and be thankful for our love revealed in Jesus Christ.

Especially we thank you for

- people who reveal your truth and righteousness...
- courage to be bold disciples...
- those who show hospitality....
- surprises that have blessed us...
- the unity of the church of Jesus Christ...

Give us your peace, O God, that we may be confident of your care for us and all your children, as we remember the needs of others.

Especially we pray for

- friends and relatives who are far away...
- neighbors in special need...
- those who suffer hunger and thirst...
- those who work at night while others sleep...
- Episcopal and Methodist Churches...

(Include additional persons from the “Friends of the Church family” portion of our Friday prayer chain)

Our Father...

God our shepherd,
you have brought us through this day
to a time of reflection and rest.

Calm our souls,
and refresh us with your peace.
Keep us close to Christ
and draw us closer to one another
in the bonds of his wondrous love.
We pray through Christ our Lord.

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

References:

Psalms and Scripture from CEB; Prayers from BCW