

+Week One + Wednesday 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

The Lord is my possession.
I promise to do what you have said.
I've sought your favor with all my heart;
have mercy on me according to your word.
I've considered my ways and turned my feet back to
your laws.
I hurry to keep your commandments—
I never put it off!
Though the wicked have surrounded me with their
ropes,
I haven't forgotten your Instruction.
I get up in the middle of the night to give thanks to you
because of your righteous rules.
I'm a friend to everyone who honors you
and to all who keep your precepts.
Lord, the world is full of your faithful love!
Teach me your statutes!

Psalm 108

My heart is unwavering, God.
I will sing and make music—
yes, with my whole being!
Wake up, harp and lyre!

I will wake the dawn itself!

I will give thanks to you, Lord, among all the peoples;
I will make music to you among the nations,
because your faithful love is higher than heaven;
your faithfulness reaches the clouds.

Exalt yourself, God, higher than heaven!
Let your glory be over all the earth!
Save me by your power and answer me
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?
You, God, no longer accompany our armies.

Give us help against the enemy—
human help is worthless.
With God we will triumph:
God is the one who will trample our adversaries.

Psalm 70

Hurry, God, to deliver me;
hurry, Lord, to help me!

Let those who seek my life be ashamed and
humiliated!

Let them fall back and be disgraced—
those people who delight in my downfall!
Let those who say, “Aha! Aha!”
stop because of their shameful behavior.

But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you,
and let those who love your saving help say again
and again:
“God is great!”

But me? I’m poor and needy.
Hurry to me, God!
You are my helper and my deliverer.
Oh, Lord, don’t delay!

Psalm 89

I will sing of the Lord’s loyal love forever.
I will proclaim your faithfulness
with my own mouth
from one generation to the next.
That’s why I say,
“Your loyal love is rightly built—forever!
You establish your faithfulness in heaven.”

You said, “I made a covenant with my chosen one;
I promised my servant David:
‘I will establish your offspring forever;
I will build up your throne from one generation to the
next.’”

Heaven thanks you for your wondrous acts, Lord—
for your faithfulness too—
in the assembly of the holy ones.

Is there any in the sky who could compare to the
Lord?

Who among the gods is equal to the Lord?
God is respected in the council of the holy ones;
God is awesome and revered more than all those
around him.

Who is like you, Lord God of heavenly forces?
Mighty Lord, your faithfulness surrounds you!
You rule over the surging sea:
When its waves rise up,
it’s you who makes them still.
It’s you who crushed Rahab like a dead body;
you scattered your enemies with your strong arm.

Heaven is yours! The earth too!
The world and all that fills it—
you made all of it! North and south—you created
them!
The mountains Tabor and Hermon
shout praises to your name.

You have a powerful arm;
your hand is strong;
your strong hand is raised high!
Your throne is built on righteousness and justice;
loyal love and faithfulness stand in front of you.

The people who know the celebratory shout are truly
happy!
They walk in the light of your presence, Lord!
They rejoice in your name all day long
and are uplifted by your righteousness

because you are the splendor of their strength.
By your favor you make us strong

because our shield is the Lord's own;
our king belongs to the holy one of Israel!

Once you spoke in a vision
to your faithful servants:
I placed a crown on a strong man.
I raised up someone specially chosen from the
people.

I discovered my servant David.
I anointed him with my holy oil.
My hand will sustain him—
yes, my arm will strengthen him!

No enemy will oppress him;
no wicked person will make him suffer.
I will crush all his foes in front of him.
I will strike down all those who hate him.

My faithfulness and my loyal love will be with him.
He will be strengthened by my name.
I will set his hand on the sea.
I will set his strong hand on the rivers.

He will cry out to me:
"You are my father,
my God, the rock of my salvation."
Yes, I'll make him the one born first—
I'll make him the high king of all earth's kings.

I will always guard my loyal love toward him.
My covenant with him will last forever.
I will establish his dynasty for all time.
His throne will last as long as heaven does.

But if his children ever abandon my Instruction,

stop following my rules—
if they treat my statutes like dirt,
stop keeping my commandments—

then I will punish their sin with a stick,
and I will punish their wrongdoing with a severe
beating.
But even then I won't withdraw my loyal love from him.
I won't betray my faithfulness.
I won't break my covenant.
I won't renege on what crossed my lips.

By my own holiness I've sworn one thing:
I will not lie to David.
His dynasty will last forever.
His throne will be like the sun, always before me.
It will be securely established forever;
like the moon, a faithful witness in the sky.

But you, God, have rejected and despised him.
You've become infuriated with your anointed one.
You've canceled the covenant with your servant.
You've thrown his crown in the dirt.

You've broken through all his walls.
You've made his strongholds a pile of ruins.
All those who pass by plunder him.
He's nothing but a joke to his neighbors.

You lifted high his foes' strong hand.
You gave all his enemies reason to celebrate.
Yes, you dulled the edge of his sword
and didn't support him in battle.

You've put an end to his splendor.
You've thrown his throne to the ground.

You've shortened the prime of his life.
You've wrapped him up in shame.

How long will it last, Lord?
Will you hide yourself forever?
How long will your wrath burn like fire?
Remember how short my life is!
Have you created humans for no good reason?
Who lives their life without seeing death?
Who is ever rescued from the grip of the grave?

Where now are your loving acts
from long ago, my Lord—
the same ones you promised to David
by your own faithfulness?
Remember your servant's abuse, my Lord!
Remember how I bear in my heart
all the insults of the nations,
the ones your enemies, Lord, use—
the ones they use to abuse
every step your anointed one takes.

Bless the Lord forever!
Amen and Amen!

Psalm 103

Let my whole being bless the Lord!
Let everything inside me bless his holy name!
Let my whole being bless the Lord
and never forget all his good deeds:

How God forgives all your sins,
heals all your sickness,
saves your life from the pit,
crowns you with faithful love and compassion,
and satisfies you with plenty of good things

so that your youth is made fresh like an eagle's.

The Lord works righteousness;
does justice for all who are oppressed.
God made his ways known to Moses;
made his deeds known to the Israelites.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful,
very patient, and full of faithful love.
God won't always play the judge;
he won't be angry forever.
He doesn't deal with us according to our sin
or repay us according to our wrongdoing,

because as high as heaven is above the earth,
that's how large God's faithful love is for those who
honor him.
As far as east is from west—
that's how far God has removed our sin from us.

Like a parent feels compassion for their children—
that's how the Lord feels compassion for those who
honor him.
Because God knows how we're made,
God remembers we're just dust.

The days of a human life are like grass:
they bloom like a wildflower;
but when the wind blows through it, it's gone;
even the ground where it stood doesn't remember it.

But the Lord's faithful love is from forever ago to
forever from now
for those who honor him.
And God's righteousness reaches to the
grandchildren

of those who keep his covenant
and remember to keep his commands.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
You divine messengers,
bless the Lord!
You who are mighty in power and keep his word,
who obey everything he says,

Bless him!
All you heavenly forces,
bless the Lord!
All you who serve him and do his will,
bless him!
All God's creatures,
bless the Lord!
Everywhere, throughout his kingdom,
let my whole being
bless the Lord!

Psalm 77

I cry out loud to God—
out loud to God so that he can hear me!

During the day when I'm in trouble I look for my Lord.
At night my hands are still outstretched and don't
grow numb;
my whole being refuses to be comforted.
I remember God and I moan.
I complain, and my spirit grows tired.

You've kept my eyelids from closing.
I'm so upset I can't even speak.
I think about days long past;
I remember years that seem an eternity in the past.

I meditate with my heart at night;
I complain, and my spirit keeps searching:

“Will my Lord reject me forever?
Will he never be pleased again?
Has his faithful love come to a complete end?
Is his promise over for future generations?
Has God forgotten how to be gracious?
Has he angrily stopped up his compassion?”

It's my misfortune, I thought,
that the strong hand of the Most High is different
now.
But I will remember the Lord's deeds;
yes, I will remember your wondrous acts from times
long past.
I will meditate on all your works;
I will ponder your deeds.

God, your way is holiness!
Who is as great a god as you, God?
You are the God who works wonders;
you have demonstrated your strength among all
peoples.
With your mighty arm you redeemed your people;
redeemed the children of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw you, God—
the waters saw you and reeled!
Even the deep depths shook!
The clouds poured water,
the skies cracked thunder;
your arrows were flying all around!

The crash of your thunder was in the swirling storm;
lightning lit up the whole world;

the earth shook and quaked.
Your way went straight through the sea;
your pathways went right through the mighty waters.
But your footprints left no trace!

You led your people like sheep
under the care of Moses and Aaron.

+Scripture Reading

Isa 43:1-3a, JPS

“But now thus said the LORD—
Who created you, O Jacob,
Who formed you, O Israel:
Fear not, for I will redeem you;
I have singled you out by name,
You are Mine.
When you pass through water,
I will be with you;
Through streams,
They shall not be scorched;
Through flame,
It shall not burn you.
For I the LORD am your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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

God of all mercies, we praise you that you
have brought us to this new day, brightening our
lives with the dawn of promise and hope in Jesus
Christ. Especially we thank you for
—the warmth of sunlight, the wetness of rain and
snow, and all that nourishes the earth . . .

—the presence and power of your Spirit . . .
—the support and encouragement we receive
from others . . .
—those who provide for public safety and well-
being . . .
—the mission of the church around the world. . . .

Merciful God, strengthen us in prayer that we
may lift up the brokenness of this world for your
healing, and share in the saving love of Jesus
Christ. Especially we pray for
—those in positions of authority over others . . .
—the lonely and forgotten . . .
—children without families or homes . . .
—agents of caring and relief . . .
—the church in Asia and the Middle East. . . .

Today I lift up in prayer:

Phil & Carol Anne Coldwell; David & Sandra Cone;
Ruth Craft; Frank & JoAnn Crawford; Richard &
Elizabeth Crawford; Jeanne Currie; John & Barbara
Tudek; Jim & Bess Treadwell; Tom & Dawn Trattner;
Kathy Thorson; Becky, Ian, Jackson & Olivia Thoms;
Dave & Sue Teeple; Bob & Babs Taliaferro; Robin
Tagliarini; Bill & Tara Swartzbaugh; Steve & Marian
Stuart & Dylan; Corinne Stuart...

Our Father...

Eternal God,
you never fail to give us each day
all that we ever need,
and even more.
Give us such joy in living
and such peace in serving Christ,
that we may gratefully make use of all your
blessings, and joyfully seek our risen Lord
in everyone we meet.
In Jesus Christ we pray.

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

References:

Psalms from CEB
Scripture reading from Jewish Publication Society
Prayers from BCW