

**January 14-20, 2018**

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**Sunday, January 14, 2018**

The Psalms have always been a source of great comfort to me. It does my faith well to consider that King David and the other authors of these ancient songs brought all of their joys and struggles to God in the lyrics. But sometimes I find myself in a rut and don't venture outside my favorites in my devotional and pastoral reading. So, for devotions this week, I will have us consider some that are a bit more unfamiliar (to me anyway). But let us start things off with one of the most used and comforting Psalms:

**Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

*Prayer: O Lord, you walk with us through all of lives difficulties and uncertainties, especially in those times and places we don't have it within us to sense you or reach out to you. Thank you for shepherding us through this life. Amen.*



**Monday, January 15, 2018**

## **Psalm 63**

A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of Judah.

- <sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- <sup>2</sup> So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.
- <sup>3</sup> Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
- <sup>5</sup> My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,<sup>\*</sup>  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
- <sup>6</sup> when I think of you on my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
- <sup>7</sup> for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
- <sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your love. So often we put our faith in things of this world. Remind us this day that your love is of old, and forever. Amen.*



**Tuesday, January 16, 2018**

## **Psalm 142**

## Prayer for Deliverance from Persecutors

### **A Maskil of David. When he was in the cave. A Prayer.**

<sup>1</sup>With my voice I cry to the LORD;  
with my voice I make supplication to the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>I pour out my complaint before him;  
I tell my trouble before him.

<sup>3</sup>When my spirit is faint,  
you know my way.

In the path where I walk  
they have hidden a trap for me.

<sup>4</sup>Look on my right hand and see—  
there is no one who takes notice of me;  
no refuge remains to me;  
no one cares for me.

<sup>5</sup>I cry to you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my refuge,  
my portion in the land of the living."

<sup>6</sup>Give heed to my cry,  
for I am brought very low.  
Save me from my persecutors,  
for they are too strong for me.

<sup>7</sup>Bring me out of prison,  
so that I may give thanks to your name.  
The righteous will surround me,  
for you will deal bountifully with me.

*Prayer: Oh Lord God, creator and ruler of the universe, in you we take refuge. May we be ever willing to bring all cares and troubles to you. You are life. You are love. We give thanks for your name, and power in our lives. Amen.*



**Wednesday, January 17, 2018**

## Psalm 4

### Confident Plea for Deliverance from Enemies

**To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.**

- <sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call, O God of my right!  
You gave me room when I was in distress.  
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.
- <sup>2</sup> How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?  
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?
- <sup>3</sup> But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;  
the LORD hears when I call to him.
- <sup>4</sup> When you are disturbed, do not sin;  
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.
- <sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"
- <sup>7</sup> You have put gladness in my heart  
more than when their grain and wine abound.
- <sup>8</sup> I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

*Prayer: Lord, we pray for the peace that only you can give. For peace in our hearts and minds, as well as peace in the world. Give us strength and courage to follow Jesus Christ in the way of love for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world. Amen.*



**Thursday, January 18, 2018**

## Psalm 1

### The Two Ways

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,

or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
<sup>2</sup>but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.  
<sup>3</sup>They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.  
<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
<sup>6</sup>for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

*Prayer: Lord may we not be tempted or swayed by any power of this world, for you are true power. And you choose to use that power as love for all creation. May we seek to do likewise this day. Amen.*



**Friday, January 19, 2018**

## **Psalm 33**

### **The Greatness and Goodness of God**

<sup>1</sup>Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.  
Praise befits the upright.  
<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD with the lyre;  
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.  
<sup>3</sup>Sing to him a new song;  
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.  
<sup>4</sup>For the word of the LORD is upright,  
and all his work is done in faithfulness.

<sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

<sup>7</sup> He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;  
he put the deeps in storehouses.

<sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

<sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;  
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

<sup>11</sup> The counsel of the LORD stands forever,  
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

<sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven;  
he sees all humankind.

<sup>14</sup> From where he sits enthroned he watches  
all the inhabitants of the earth—

<sup>15</sup> he who fashions the hearts of them all,  
and observes all their deeds.

<sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by his great army;  
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

<sup>17</sup> The war horse is a vain hope for victory,  
and by its great might it cannot save.

<sup>18</sup> Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup> to deliver their soul from death,  
and to keep them alive in famine.

<sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the LORD;  
he is our help and shield.

<sup>21</sup> Our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.

<sup>22</sup> Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

*Prayer: God of all time, we put our trust in you, and you alone. Be with us and all those we love through every trial. For you are great and good. Thank you for saving us while we are yet sinning. Praise be your name! Amen.*



**Saturday, January 20, 2017**

## **Psalm 11**

**For the director of music. Of David.**

- <sup>1</sup>In the LORD I take refuge.  
How then can you say to me:  
"Flee like a bird to your mountain."  
<sup>2</sup>For look, the wicked bend their bows;  
they set their arrows against the strings  
to shoot from the shadows  
at the upright in heart.  
<sup>3</sup>When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?"  
<sup>4</sup>The LORD is in his holy temple;  
the LORD is on his heavenly throne.  
He observes everyone on earth;  
his eyes examine them.  
<sup>5</sup>The LORD examines the righteous,  
but the wicked, those who love violence,  
he hates with a passion.  
<sup>6</sup>On the wicked he will rain  
fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be their lot.  
<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is righteous,  
he loves justice;  
the upright will see his face.

*Prayer: In you, Oh Lord, we are saved. Thank you for giving us a place and purpose in you.  
Amen.*

