

Praying the Psalms

Week 2

"God has willed to make God's self known to us in the mystery of the Psalms."

—Thomas Merton, Praying the Psalms

Invocation

Good and gracious God, we are on a new adventure of learning. We are excited to continue. And today's Psalm is all about continuing! Please bless this time of learning and praying.

Confession

God, we are learning that humans of all times and all places have the same basic needs and troubles. Today we learn that we need encouragement to stick with God and not quit. We are really sorry that we can be distracted and pulled off course by our everyday lives. Be patient with us as we pray for the ability to stick with you and the discipline of prayer. Amen.

Psalm 27 (MSG)

Light, space, zest—

that's GOD!

So, with GOD on my side I'm fearless,
afraid of no one and nothing.

When vandal hordes ride down
ready to eat me alive,

Those bullies and toughs
fall flat on their faces.

When besieged,
I'm calm as a baby.

When all hell breaks loose,
I'm collected and cool.

I'm asking GOD for one thing,
only one thing:

To live with GOD in GOD's house
my whole life long.

I'll contemplate his beauty;
I'll study at his feet.

That's the only quiet, secure place
in a noisy world,

The perfect getaway,
far from the buzz of traffic.

God holds me head and shoulders
above all who try to pull me down.

I'm headed for his place to offer anthems
that will raise the roof!

Already I'm singing God-songs;

I'm making music to GOD.

Listen, GOD, I'm calling at the top of my lungs:

"Be good to me! Answer me!"

When my heart whispered, "Seek God,"

my whole being replied,

"I'm seeking GOD!"

Don't hide from me now!

You've always been right there for me;

don't turn your back on me now.

Don't throw me out, don't abandon me;

you've always kept the door open.

My father and mother walked out and left me,

but GOD took me in.

Point me down your highway, GOD;

direct me along a well-lighted street;

show my enemies whose side you're on.

Don't throw me to the dogs,

those liars who are out to get me,

filling the air with their threats.

I'm sure now I'll see God's goodness

in the exuberant earth.

Stay with GOD!

Take heart. Don't quit.

I'll say it again:

Stay with GOD.



Beauty



Study



Traffic



Roofs



God-songs



Streets

Prayer

Leader: God, let us live with you our whole lives long.

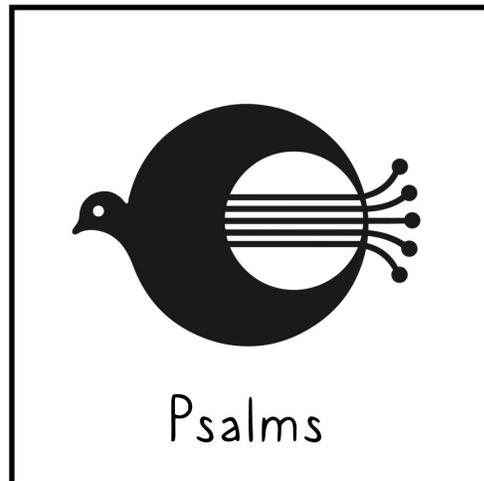
**All: My heart whispers "Seek God" and my whole being replies
"I'm seeking God!"**

Leader: Christ, be good to us! Answer us!

**All: My heart whispers "Seek God" and my whole being replies
"I'm seeking God!"**

Leader: Spirit, teach us your God-songs; teach us how to make the music you love.

**All: My heart whispers "Seek God" and my whole being replies
"I'm seeking God!" Amen.**



You are invited into a time of silence

Take a few deep breaths.

Relax your shoulders, your jaw, your hands and your feet.

Re-read the Psalm several times.

Each week we will share an idea that might help with praying the Psalms.

1. Think of the Psalms as Christmas trees and decorate them with things that matter to you.
2. Say and sing them.
3. Put the Psalm into your own words. Re-write it. The enemies mentioned in the Psalms aren't other people, but the addictions and bad habits which hold us. Bring those personal enemies into the Psalm. Name them. The "bullies and toughs" might be drugs or alcohol or procrastination or quick anger. Ask God to put those enemies flat on their faces!

Use this space to record your prayer ideas and prayer drawings.

Blessing

May God always listen to our prayers.

May we always listen for God in the silence.

May we live our whole lives trusting in God.

Daily Intentions for Lent are available at: waytolead.org/lent-intentions-2019

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Lent 2019 Week 2

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