

Giving Voice to a Praying Heart

Gathering

Psalm 133

New Century Version (NCV)

The Love of God's People

A song for going up to worship. Of David.

- ¹ It is good and pleasant
when God's people live together in peace!
- ² It is like perfumed oil poured on the priest's head
and running down his beard.
It ran down Aaron's beard
and on to the collar of his robes.
- ³ It is like the dew of Mount Hermon
falling on the hills of Jerusalem.
There the LORD gives his blessing
of life forever.

Prayer: *O God, let the overflowing of your Holy Spirit cover your church with the blessing of unity and the anointing of your peace, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.* ¹

Call to Worship

Psalm 96

New International Version (NIV)

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.**
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

¹ *Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Worship*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2012, 869.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶ **Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

¹² **Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.**

¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

Prayer: *Great and wondrous God, your love and your mercy are new every morning. Do not let your people be content with the repetition of threadbare praise. Inspire us to join with all of your creation in fresh songs of hope and blessing offered to you each new day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* ²

² *Psalms for All Seasons*, 596.

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 148

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹ Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens!
Praise him from the skies!
² Praise him, all his angels!
Praise him, all the armies of heaven!
³ Praise him, sun and moon!
Praise him, all you twinkling stars!
⁴ Praise him, skies above!
Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!
⁵ Let every created thing give praise to the LORD,
for he issued his command, and they came into being.
⁶ He set them in place forever and ever.
His decree will never be revoked.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you creatures of the ocean depths,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and clouds,
wind and weather that obey him,
⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
¹⁰ wild animals and all livestock,
small scurrying animals and birds,
¹¹ kings of the earth and all people,
rulers and judges of the earth,
¹² young men and young women,
old men and children.

¹³ Let them all praise the name of the LORD.
For his name is very great;
his glory towers over the earth and heaven!
¹⁴ He has made his people strong,
honoring his faithful ones—
the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Prayer: *O God, beginning with the angels and descending through the skies, your call to worship unites all creation in song.*

We praise you for ...

*Give us wisdom and strength, enabling our wholehearted praise, for you alone are worthy; you alone are Lord. Amen.*³

Psalm of Gratitude

Psalm 136

The Voice (VOICE) – Adapted

This hymn of praise recounts God's actions in the past: creation, exodus, and the giving of the land to Israel.

A repeated refrain indicates this psalm was chanted responsively.

One: Let your heart overflow with praise to the Eternal,
for He is good,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: Praise the True God who reigns over all other gods,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: Praise the Lord who reigns over all other lords,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: To Him who alone does marvelous wonders,
Who created the heavens with skill and artistry,
Who laid out dry land over the waters,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: Who made the great heavenly lights,
The sun to reign by day,

The moon and stars to reign by night,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

³ *Psalms for All Seasons*, 972 (adapted).

One: To Him who struck down the firstborn of the Egyptians,
Who set Israel free from Egyptian masters,
With fierce strength, a mighty hand,
and an outstretched arm,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: To Him who split the Red Sea in two
and made a path between the divided waters,
Then allowed Israel to pass safely through
on dry ground,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: To Him who crushed Pharaoh and his army
in the waters of the Red Sea,
Who guided His people through the desert,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: Who struck down mighty kings,
Who slaughtered famous kings,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: To Him who gave the conquered land
as an inheritance,
Who made the land a heritage to Israel,
His servant,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: To Him who remembered us
when we were nearly defeated,
Who rescued us from our enemies,
Who provides food for every living thing,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

One: Let your heart overflow with praise
to the True God of heaven,

ALL: for His faithful love lasts forever.

Prayer: *Everlasting God, you love is a banner unfurled over all times
and places.*

We thank you for ...

*Help us to live into the story of your redemption, joining the cast of
those called love and serve in your name. All glory be to you, Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*⁴

Psalm of Confession

Psalm 32

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**The Joy of Forgiveness
Of David. A Maskil.**

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁴ *Psalms for All Seasons*, 884.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
 I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
 whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
 else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
 but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
 and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Prayer: *God of grace, when we keep silence in guilt or suffering, your saving love can free our hearts to sing. Help us each day to confess our sin, receive your grace, forgive one another, and live in peace. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*⁵

Psalm of Trust

Psalm 23

King James Version (KJV)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
 he leadeth me beside the still waters.
³ He restoreth my soul:
 he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
 thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
 thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
 and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Prayer: *Holy Spirit, you are life itself to us. You refresh our souls, just as you green the pastures in springtime.*

⁵ *Psalms for All Seasons*, 206.

Your comfort is like a pool of still water.
 Comfort ...
In your presence, we can face pain and uncertainty.
 The pain of ...
 The uncertainty of ...
When we remember you, we are unafraid.
 We can face our fear of ...
Even our enemies cannot terrify us when you are here.
We are lifted up, along with all things good and merciful.
Throughout our lives, we remain with you.
*Thanks be to God! Amen.*⁶

Sending

Psalm 67

Tanakh Translation (Jewish Publication Society)

For the leader: with instrumental music. A psalm. A song.

Leader: ² May God be gracious to us and bless us;
 may He show us favor,
³ that Your way be known on earth,
 Your deliverance among all nations.

⁴ Peoples will praise you, O God;
 all peoples will praise You.
⁵ Nations will exult and sing for joy,
 for You rule the peoples with equity,
 You guide the nations of the earth.
⁶ The peoples will praise You, O God;
 all peoples will praise You.

ALL: ⁷ **May the earth yield its produce;
 may God, our God, bless us.**
⁸ **May God bless us,
 and be revered to the ends of the earth.**

⁶ From *Words for Worship 2* (#34 by Vernon K. Rempel), edited by Diane Zaerr Breneman, ©2009 by Herald Press, Scottsdale, Pa.