

# 150 Days in the Psalms

*"How great are your works, O Lord!  
Your thoughts are very deep!  
The stupid man cannot know;  
the fool cannot understand this." Psalm 92:5-6*

When I was reading this Psalm I could help but think about All Saints Day which the church celebrated yesterday. On All Saints Day we who are still toiling under the sun remember those saints who have been called from this earth and now rest from their labors in the presence of Lamb, Christ Jesus. While we do indeed miss our loved ones who have been called from this earth, we know that the works of the Lord are indeed great and He is faithful to His saints.

How great are Your works, O Lord, that You would send your Son to dwell among us! How great are Your works O Lord, that You send Your Son to suffer and die in our place! How great are Your works, O Lord, that You would raise Him up from the grave! How great are Your works, O Lord, that you would give your saints the salvation and life won by Your Son! How great are Your works, O Lord, that You would wash your saints clean with the blood of the lamb!

Indeed, we praise the Lord that He has worked in the lives of all of His saints. As Lutherans we understand that it is God who calls His saints to faith, anointing them with the Holy Spirit like one who is anointed with oil. He exalts His saints and He works in His saints all throughout their lives. Though His saints may suffer in this life, God makes them flourish (even in their old age) in His house. Salvation is theirs!

How great Your works, O Lord, that You have called your saints to Your side forever more! We may miss our loved ones, but we praise the Lord for all He has done for all His saints! Someday we will join them as the Lord calls us to be with Him, and what a joyful day that will be!

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Luther's commentaries on the Psalms were translated by Bruce Cameron in his 1991 STM thesis "Luther's Summaries of the Psalms (1531)--A Model for Contemporary Psalm Interpretation". The thesis is, in part, a translation of *Summarien fiber die Psalmen*, is published under a Creative Commons 4.0 license.

# Psalm 92

Monday



The 92nd Psalm is a psalm of comfort which extols God's word as the most highly exalted and precious gift, against the false saints, whom it attacks. They certainly flower for a time, glorious and powerful, but finally they perish. The righteous however will remain forever. Although they come to an old age, they shall yet never be old, but they become young daily through God's word which always conveys fruit and new growth. But fools neither consider nor understand these things, as we also see today in our own time.

*Psalm 92*

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you were favorable to your land;

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people;

you covered all their sin.

<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;

you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

and put away your indignation toward us!

<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again,

that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

but let them not turn back to folly.

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

righteousness and peace kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

and righteousness looks down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup>Yes, the Lord will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him

and make his footsteps a way.

## Prayer

O Lord, our hope and confidence, do not forsake us in our advancing age, but come quickly to restore our lives that we may joyfully proclaim Your righteousness with all Your saints to all eternity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# Psalm 93

Tuesday



The 93rd Psalm is a prophecy of the kingdom of Christ, that it is as wide as the world and remains forever. Although floods and waters storm against it, that is, the world's death and rage oppose and struggle against it, they accomplish nothing at all. For He is greater than the world and its prince. This kingdom, and all things, will be ordered through His word, without sword or armor. He will adorn His house and make it holy. For the true worship which adorns and illuminates this house is preaching, praise, and thanksgiving which belong neither to Moses nor the Old Testament.

*Psalm 93*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty;

the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.

Yes, the world is established;

it shall never be moved.

<sup>2</sup>Your throne is established from of old;

you are from everlasting.

<sup>3</sup>The floods have lifted up, O Lord,

the floods have lifted up their voice;

the floods lift up their roaring.

<sup>4</sup>Mightier than the thunders of many waters,

mightier than the waves of the sea,

the Lord on high is mighty!

<sup>5</sup>Your decrees are very trustworthy;

holiness befits your house,

O Lord, forevermore.

## Prayer

O Lord, Your presence, knowledge, and love exceed our understanding. Preserve our faith that we never fall from You, and at the last grant us the everlasting life You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# Psalm 94

Wednesday



The 94th Psalm is a psalm of prayer, which, by my understanding, cries out not against the heathen, but against the kings and princes, priests and prophets. He calls them fools among the people [v. 8] that is, those who teach and rule the people foolishly and badly. These are the ones who kill and persecute all the godly prophets and their disciples. As the psalmist says, they depend on God. He has given them the power, and has stood by them and has neither paid attention to nor considered those whom they slaughtered as condemned heretics and rebels against all of both [worldly and spiritual] authority. Against these authorities the psalmist prays, desiring help and support. Although he finds none, he takes comfort in his confidence that God's word and actions are reliable and God will not allow the seat of destruction [v. 20] to come upon them, but will repay them for their lies and murders. Amen.

*Psalm 94*

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, God of vengeance,

O God of vengeance, shine forth!

<sup>2</sup>Rise up, O judge of the earth;

repay to the proud what they deserve!

<sup>3</sup>O Lord, how long shall the wicked,  
how long shall the wicked exult?

<sup>4</sup>They pour out their arrogant words;  
all the evildoers boast.

<sup>5</sup>They crush your people, O Lord,  
and afflict your heritage.

<sup>6</sup>They kill the widow and the sojourner,  
and murder the fatherless;

<sup>7</sup>and they say, “The Lord does not see;  
the God of Jacob does not perceive.”

<sup>8</sup>Understand, O dullest of the people!  
Fools, when will you be wise?

<sup>9</sup>He who planted the ear, does he not hear?

He who formed the eye, does he not see?

<sup>10</sup>He who disciplines the nations, does he not rebuke?

He who teaches man knowledge—

<sup>11</sup>the Lord—knows the thoughts of man,  
that they are but a breath.

<sup>12</sup>Blessèd is the man whom you discipline, O Lord,  
and whom you teach out of your law,

<sup>13</sup>to give him rest from days of trouble,  
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

<sup>14</sup>For the Lord will not forsake his people;

he will not abandon his heritage;

<sup>15</sup>for justice will return to the righteous,

and all the upright in heart will follow it.

<sup>16</sup>Who rises up for me against the wicked?

Who stands up for me against evildoers?

<sup>17</sup>If the Lord had not been my help,

my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.

<sup>18</sup>When I thought, "My foot slips,"

your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.

<sup>19</sup>When the cares of my heart are many,

your consolations cheer my soul.

<sup>20</sup>Can wicked rulers be allied with you,

those who frame injustice by statute?

<sup>21</sup>They band together against the life of the righteous

and condemn the innocent to death.

<sup>22</sup>But the Lord has become my stronghold,

and my God the rock of my refuge.

<sup>23</sup>He will bring back on them their iniquity

and wipe them out for their wickedness;

the Lord our God will wipe them out.



# Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

# Psalm 95

Thursday



The 95th Psalm is a prophecy of Christ which the letter to the Hebrews extensively treats as a prophecy of the time of the New Testament and of the voice of the Gospel. In short, it teaches and allures us to Christ and to the word of God as to the true worship. He warns us by the examples of the faithless fathers in the wilderness, who also did not come into the promised land on account of their unbelief and contempt for God.

You must however apply the entire psalm to Christ: He is Himself the God whom we are exhorted to worship. He has made us and is our shepherd, and we are His sheep. He is the one who tested the unbelieving fathers, as Paul in 1 Cor 10:9 also states. From henceforth, He will receive no Mosaic worship, but instead faith, joyful preaching, praise, and thanksgiving.

*Psalm 95*

<sup>1</sup>Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup>For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,  
<sup>8</sup>do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

<sup>9</sup>when your fathers put me to the test  
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

<sup>10</sup>For forty years I loathed that generation  
and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart,  
and they have not known my ways."

<sup>11</sup>Therefore I swore in my wrath,  
"They shall not enter my rest."

# Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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# Psalm 96

Friday



The 96th Psalm is a prophecy of the kingdom of Christ in all the world, in which there should be nothing but joy and praise. The text is, truly, itself clear enough. In it all the nations, lands, people, forests, seas, trees, are inclined in worship. They should therefore praise and thank Him for this reason, that He judges and rules with righteousness and truth. That is, He delivers from sin and all that sin brings with it, such as death, hell, the power of the devil, and all that is evil. This is the new song of the new kingdom, from new creatures, from new men, not born of the law nor works but born of God and Spirit. These are nothing less than miracles, done in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

*Psalm 96*

<sup>1</sup>Oh sing to the Lord a new song;

    sing to the Lord, all the earth!

<sup>2</sup>Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

    tell of his salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations,

    his marvelous works among all the peoples!

<sup>4</sup>For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

he is to be feared above all gods.

<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

<sup>9</sup>Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth!

<sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!  
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
<sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
<sup>13</sup>before the Lord, for he comes,  
for he comes to judge the earth.

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

# Prayer

Heavenly Father, You care for all people regardless of their wealth or heritage, and You have made us heirs of Your salvation. Strengthen us, that we care for the poor, weak, and lonely, and that all our neighbors may know Your gracious love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# Psalm 97

Saturday



The 97th Psalm is a prophecy of the kingdom of Christ, just as the preceding psalm was. And the significance is always this, that He rules and maintains this kingdom through the Gospel, through which He thunders and lightnings and burns His enemies and melts the mountains, etc. That is, He brings low all holiness, wisdom, power, and whatever is great, so that they might be holy, wise, great, and powerful through Him alone, and not otherwise. Along with these enemies and mountains, the Jewish kingdom and worship perish also, as well as all which is not Christ. For He alone shall be, and all others not, as the stone in Daniel (2:34) cut from the mountain, fills the whole world and scatters everything else and makes them to nothing. And He will become the mountain of the world, etc.

*Psalm 97*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;

let the many coastlands be glad!

<sup>2</sup>Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;

righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes before him

and burns up his adversaries all around.

<sup>4</sup>His lightnings light up the world;



the earth sees and trembles.

<sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,  
before the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>The heavens proclaim his righteousness,  
and all the peoples see his glory.

<sup>7</sup>All worshipers of images are put to shame,  
who make their boast in worthless idols;  
worship him, all you gods!

<sup>8</sup>Zion hears and is glad,  
and the daughters of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

<sup>10</sup>O you who love the Lord, hate evil!  
He preserves the lives of his saints;  
he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup>Light is sown for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, light of the world, You shine with the brightness of the sun in the darkness of our crooked and twisted generation. Give us strength to shine as lights in the world as we live out our baptismal life by serving our neighbors with thanksgiving and joy as sacrificial offerings of mercy and love; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# Psalm 98

Sunday



The 98th Psalm, like the preceding psalm, is a prophecy of the kingdom of Christ, which extends into all the world. It also calls us to be joyful and praise God for His salvation, that is, preach and give thanks for the redemption given us through Christ. Here then is worship--not offerings given in Jerusalem, but preaching and thanksgiving that He is king in righteousness over all the world, that is, that He has redeemed us from sin and death by Himself alone, without our merits, etc.

*Psalm 98*

<sup>1</sup>Oh sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm

have worked salvation for him.

<sup>2</sup>The Lord has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness

to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

<sup>4</sup>Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody!

<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world and those who dwell in it!

<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands;

let the hills sing for joy together

<sup>9</sup>before the Lord, for he comes

to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with equity.

# Prayer

Merciful Father, You have given Your only Son as the sacrifice for sinners. Grant us grace to receive the fruits of His redeeming work with thanksgiving and daily to follow in His way; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

