



Praying the Psalms

A PRAYER INSPIRED BY
READING PSALM 96

BY SHEILA LUTZ

Lord of my life,
All praise and glory be to You
for all You have done for me
and for all You have done
for this world of Yours.

My favorite way to witness is to sing — a new song — an old song — telling of Your creation, of Your splendor, and of Your mercy. I love singing by myself, and I love singing about You with tens or hundreds or thousands of people. It then seems to me as though the whole earth is rejoicing, singing Your praises.

Through song, I can tell of Your creation of the world and even of the creation of me. I can join others and sing of Your marvelous works and Your great deeds — salvation from the flood, how Your promises are fulfilled, and especially how You came to earth to die for our sins and reconcile us to You. You came into each of our lives through Christ's death and resurrection to redeem us, to save us, to sanctify us, and to call us Your children.

Lord, even when I'm speaking, I can declare the beauty of Your holiness. Each day I can tell someone of Your faithfulness — that there is no other thing and no other person who can take Your place as God. Other things may consume our time and other people may lead us away from

You, but they are worthless. You alone have the power to save us.

When I'm with friends or strangers, walking in this world You created, I can tell them about You: You are splendid ... awesome ... impressive ... imposing! Because of You, the world is spectacular and rich, beautiful for our eyes to behold, as we enter Your sanctuary or when we spend quiet times with You. Because You have made us Yours, we are resplendent in Your sight, glowing in the garment of Your holiness that You give us.

Even in times of unrest and trouble, I want to tell the world, "My God is great! He is in charge. He has done great things, and His power and strength will see us through even *this* trouble!" When times are wonderfully peaceful, I pray I will never neglect to praise You, for You make my heart rejoice. My song rises in exultation for all You continue to do for us, Your children.

My heart will rejoice and be glad as I sing to You a song, bless Your holy name, and make known Your salvation to all around me, to those in my extended family, to my friends, and to everyone — even those I do not know. I will worship You with my witness. Open my mouth to share Your wonderful works, to sing for joy, O my Lord and my God. Amen. *Q*