



PRAYING the PSALMS

BASED ON PSALM 145

by Sheila Lutz

O MY LORD,

You are my God. You are my King. I will praise You every day for being so awesome — for creating all You have created — for blessing me with salvation and gifts of the spirit and a bountiful life here on earth. Sometimes I see all Your splendor that is visible here on earth, and I am amazed and thankful and stunned by Your unfathomable works. At other times I seem to be far from You; I forget to praise You; I don't see the amazing life; I am adrift.

Then I remember I have known that You are wonderful. From before birth, You have given me roots. You placed me into a family that loves You and taught me Your ways — that learning of You was so important, and that walking in Your ways of praise and obedience were to be my way of life — ways they had learned from the teachings of their parents and grandparents before them. More important, You placed me in Your family, the family of Christ, with even more generations of followers who told The Story. Thank You, O my kind Father, for placing me here.

You have connected me to my fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. You have given each of us a unique combination of gifts and talents, but they are gifts that unite us — gifts that we must share — to glorify You and Your magnificent works here on Earth. You have taught me many things through these sisters and brothers, not only how to give with joy and how to use my gifts in service to You, but also how You work through the lives of each of us to bring glory to Your kingdom. These children of Yours tell of the beauty of Your creation — the

wisdom of a heart dedicated to You, the knowledge to build mighty works or cure diseases — and show Your compassion to comfort dis-ease or to build a bridge to a someone who is lost from You. There are new gifts to be seen in each season of life.

You are so good to me. You forgive me when I mess up and sin — sometimes because of inexperience, sometimes unconsciously, and sometimes with full knowledge of what I am doing. You are always there to love me, to lift me up when I fall and comfort me when my heart is aching. You have promised me that You would be with me and keep on loving me and lifting me wherever I go. You are faithful to me and have given me faith in You, so I can go out and tell the world — the people You place near me as well as those in new places to which I go — by word and action, that You are God.

For all You have done for me, for all You have done for my family in Christ, for all You have created, for all Your blessings, and for Your justification, redemption, and sanctification, I praise You, O God. You have shown me how I have been rooted in You, how I can stay connected to You, and how I can share You as You command. Thank You for the gift of praise. It is so awesome to know this joy, which I can share with my families as I praise You. You are near to all who call on You and trust in You. Praise Your glorious name forever! I can — we all can — celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyously sing of Your mighty deeds. Let me, this creature of Yours — let all Your creatures — praise Your glorious name forever and ever. Amen

