



#59980 #1

EVENING DEVOTIONS ON THE PSALMS

Choose a hymn or praise song to sing.

Leader: How deep are your spiritual roots? Do you trace them all the way back to Creation? If we believe that God chose us before we were born (Ps. 139:16), our spiritual heritage is intertwined with all believers of all time!

St. Paul called himself “the apostle to the Gentiles.” He says in Romans 15:7-12:
Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name.” Again, it says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” And again, Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.”

We, as Gentiles, have a real kinship with the Jews – the Hebrews of the Old Testament. Let’s hear messages from their hymnal, the Psalms.

ALL: *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer* (Ps. 19:14).

Leader: Listen, and imagine yourself praising the God of creation with His people thousands of years ago: first, from Psalm 24:1-2 and then Psalm 148: (*Read these*)

Did you notice the psalmist said the people of Israel were close to His heart? Psalm 17:8 uses the phrase, “*Keep me as the apple of your eye.*”

Now let us praise God together in the words of Psalm 29:1-5 and 7-11:

ALL: *Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.*

Leader: *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.*

ALL: *The voice of the LORD is over the waters: the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.*

Leader: *The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.*

ALL: *The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.*

Leader: *The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.*

ALL: *The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.*

Leader: *The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"*

ALL: *The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.*

Leader: *The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.*

Yes, the voice of the LORD is powerful! He spoke. The world and everything came to be. He also spoke to Noah and told him exactly how to build the ark. Listen to how the ancient peoples praised God for the renewal after the flood: *(Read Psalm 104:6-28)*

God is holy. He hates sin. Yet He promised forgiveness to His people of all times. We speak together selected verses from Psalm 103:

ALL: *Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.*

Leader: *Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

ALL: *He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases;*

Leader: *He redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion.*

ALL: *He satisfies my desires with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Leader: *The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.*

ALL: *He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:*

Leader: *The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.*

ALL: *He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;*

Leader: *He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.*

ALL: *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear Him;*

Leader: *As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

ALL: *As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;*

ALL: *But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD'S love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children – with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. ...Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in His dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

Leader: You may know other beautiful Psalms which describe the LORD's attributes. We have to ponder Psalm 8 and 19:1-6 which testify of God's influence all over the world. There is so much in the 150 Psalms! Sometimes they praise, sometimes they beseech, sometimes they recount what God has done, like rescuing His people from Egypt. Psalm 77, verses 11 to 20 summarize this. *(Read this)*

The last Psalm we'll use this evening as part of our closing is Psalm 16:7-11; let us read it together:

ALL: *I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure because You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

Leader: Because of our Savior's resurrection, we indeed rest secure – secure in His love, His care, and His promises. He who made us and chose us to be His own is faithful!

Close with singing "Abide with Me" LSB 878, LW 490

Scripture is from the NIV

*Written by Edna Kloeber
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Evening Devotions on the Psalms #1



#59980 #2

EVENING DEVOTION ON PSALM 103

- Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- ALL:** Amen.
- Leader:** Let us sing together Sun of My Soul, O Savior Dear *LW* 488; *TLH* 551.
- Leader:** In Psalm 103 David lead us in praising the Lord:
Praise the Lord, my soul! Praise his holy name, all that is within me.
- ALL:** *Praise the Lord, my soul, and never forget all the good he has done:*
- Leader:** *He is the one who forgives all your sins, the one who heals all your diseases,*
- ALL:** *the one who rescues your life from the pit, the one who crowns you with mercy and compassion,*
- Leader:** *the one who fills your life with blessings so that you become young again like an eagle.*
- ALL:** *The Lord does what is right and fair for all who are oppressed.*
- Leader:** *He let Moses know his ways. He let the Israelites know the things he had done.*
- ALL:** *The Lord is compassionate, merciful, patient, and always ready to forgive.*
- Leader:** *He will not always accuse us of wrong or be angry with us forever.*
- ALL:** *He has not treated us as we deserve for our sins, or paid us back for our wrongs.*
- Leader:** *As high as the heavens are above the earth — that is how vast his mercy is toward those who fear him.*
- ALL:** *As far as the east is from the west — that is how far he has removed our rebellious acts from himself.*

- Leader:** *As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.*
- ALL:** *He certainly knows what we are made of. He bears in mind that we are dust.*
- Leader:** *Human life is as short-lived as grass. It blossoms like a flower in the field. When the wind blows over the flower, it disappears, and there is no longer any sign of it.*
- ALL:** *But from everlasting to everlasting, the Lord's mercy is on those who fear him. His righteousness belongs to their children and grandchildren,*
- Leader:** *to those who are faithful to his promise, to those who remember to follow his guiding principles.*
- ALL:** *The LORD has set his throne in heaven. His kingdom rules everything.*
- Leader:** *Praise the Lord, all his angels, you mighty beings who carry out his orders and are ready to obey his spoken orders.*
- ALL:** *Praise the Lord, all his creatures in all the places of his empire. Praise the LORD, my soul!*
- Leader:** We have seen how great our God is – how eager He is to forgive and show His love and compassion. He is ready to draw near to each of us as we draw near to Him. Let us pray that indeed we will become closer to Him as we study His Word, apply its truths, and encourage our sisters in Christ in their faith.

We pray: Dear Jesus, how thankful we are that You bore the punishment for our sins. As we now reflect on how we failed You this day, hear our silent prayers ... *(pause)* ... Thank You for hearing us and forgiving us. Be with our loved ones and with every person here so that we can each grow in grace and serve you better. Strengthen us and use us for Your glory. In Your name. Amen.

Let us close with an evening hymn, All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night *LW 484, TLH 558*

Scripture is from *God's Word*, (God's Word to the Nations Bible Society, copyright 1995).

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