

Monday Evening Bible Reading Group: 17th June: Prayers with the Psalms

In Common Worship Services and Prayers for the Church of England, someone (un-named) has written a prayer to accompany each psalm. Since the psalms are prayers, you might call the prayer a psalm summary.. Here is a small selection for discussion. I have typed them as continuous prose instead of their actual verse form – makes typing easier for two finger typists.

Psalm 1: Christ our wisdom, give us delight in your law, that we may bear fruits of patience and peace in the kingdom of the righteous, for your mercy's sake.

Psalm 3: Shield us, Lord, from all evil, and lift us from apathy and despair, that even when we are terrified, we may trust your power to save, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 5: Lord, protect us from the deceit of flattering tongues and lying lips; give us words of life which speak your truth and bless your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 6: Lord Jesus Christ, may the tears shed in your earthly life be balm for all who weep, and may the prayers of your pilgrimage give strength to all who suffer, for your mercy's sake.

Psalm 8: WE bless you, master of the heavens, for the wonderful order that enfolds the world; grant that your whole creation may find fulfilment in the Son of Man, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Psalm 9: Remember, Lord, all who cry to you from death's dark gates; do not forget those whom the world forgets, but raise your faithful ones to Zion's gate, with your all-conquering Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 12: Lord, when faith is faint and speech veils our intentions, restore us by your word of power and purity, both now and for ever.

Psalm 15: Lord, lead us to our heavenly home by single steps of self-restraint and deeds of righteousness, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 20: Merciful God, purify our hearts in the flame of your Spirit, and transform our toil into an offering of praise, that we may reject the proud rule of might and trust in Christ alone, for he is our Lord for ever and ever.

Psalm 21: Crown us, O God, but with humility, and robe us with compassion, that, as you call us into the kingdom of your Son, we may strive to overcome all evil by the power of good and so walk gently on the earth with you, our God, for ever.

Psalm 22: Restless with grief and fear, the abandoned turn to you in every hour of trial, good Lord deliver us, O God most holy, God most strong, whose wisdom is the cross of Christ.

Psalm 25: Free us, God of mercy, from all that keeps us from you; relieve the misery of the anxious and the ashamed and fill us with the hope of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 29: Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ, to hear the music of your voice above the chaos of the world; open our eyes to see the vision of your glory, for you are our King, now and or ever,

Lord, you hide your face when we trust in ourselves; strip us of false security and re-clothe us in your praise, that we may know you as the one who raises us from death, as you raised your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Psalm 34: Send your holy angels to watch over us, O God, that on our lips will be found your truth and in our hearts your love; so we may ever taste your goodness in the land of the living, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 39: O Christ, Son of the living God, help us when we are too cast down to pray, and grant that we may trust you all our days, for you are with us in our living and in our dying, Jesus, Lord and God.

Psalm 41: God our deliverer, raise up the poor and comfort the betrayed, through the one who for our sakes became poor and whose betrayal bought our salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 44: In the darkness of unknowing, when your love seems absent, draw near to us, O God, in Christ forsaken, in Christ risen, our Redeemer and our Lord.

Psalm 54: Take away, good Lord, the sin that corrupts us; give us the sorrow that heals and the joy that praises and restore by grace your own image within us, that we may take our place among your people, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tender God, gentle protector in time of trouble, pierce the gloom of despair and give us with all your people, the song of freedom and the shout of praise, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 147: Compassionate God, as you know each star you have created so you know the secrets of every heart; in your loving mercy bring to your table all who are fearful and broken, all who are wounded and needy, that our hungers may be satisfied in the city of your peace; through Christ who is our peace.

Suggestions: 1) Pick a couple of these prayers and have a look at the associated psalm. Do they fit well together? 2) Write your own prayer to go with Psalm 23.