



PRAYER VIGIL WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7TH, 6:30PM

Join us on our [Facebook Page](#) at 6:30pm for a Live Video. If you do not have Facebook, you can use this guide to pray with us on your own wherever you are and a recording of the service will be shared later.

• **SCRIPTURE**

We are in the middle of Holy Week, a sacred time every year where Christians focus intently on the events in Jesus' life leading up to the cross and the resurrection. In light of this special time, we are centering our prayers tonight on the Psalms—the Prayer Book of the Bible. The Psalms were the prayer book of Jesus himself. They are the prayer book of the Church. J.D. Walt says that the Psalms ought to be the “soundtrack” of our lives.

What you will notice if you read through the Psalms is that these prayers are often *a lot* more honest than our modern worship songs (or even our own prayers) about the pain of life and the struggle of faith. Here, in the middle of Holy Week—the most challenging week for Jesus and his disciples—and in the middle of this challenging COVID-19 crisis, we are going to pray and sing through several Psalms. These prayers will give us space to be honest with our pain and move towards hope.

You've probably heard a lot of things from the Church so far that you would *expect* to hear right now: “have faith, hope, and love, persevere, there is peace in Christ, the Gospel is our greatest hope.” All of this is true! But maybe you need to hear this from the Church, too: *it's ok sometimes to not be ok. It's ok if you've been afraid, out of sorts, anxious, unsure. It's ok if you are struggling to pray and know where God is in all of this.*

God knows your heart, He knows your humanity. Tonight, let's be vulnerable, let's be honest about the places in our hearts that need grace and healing. If there's one thing we learn from the Psalms, it's that prayer is not something we use to cover-up our insecurities and struggles—it's where we lift *everything* in us (the good and bad) to God. Let these Psalms help you do that tonight. Let's pray.

Psalm 13 (NIV)

¹ How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

² **How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?**

³ Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

⁵ **But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.**

⁶ **I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me.**

- **SONG**

“How Long Oh Lord (Psalm 13)” by Peter Crockett © 2018
Click Here – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaMPbjkprQ0>

VERSE 1

How long O Lord will you forget me, how long will you look the other way (Repeat)

REFRAIN

*But I will trust in your unfailing Love, my heart rejoices in your salvation
And I will sing to the Lord, for he’s been good to me. (Repeat)*

VERSE 2

How long will anxious thoughts prevail, my heart has sorrow day by day (Repeat)

VERSE 3

Consider me and answer God, light up my eyes or I will sleep like death (Repeat)

(INTERLUDE)

ENDING (From Matthew 8 and Zephaniah 3)

When I listen for your voice, it’s singing over me
Such a peaceful song I hear, it stills the roughest sea
Loud the winds howl, loud the waves roar, thunder claps fill the air,
Yet your voice speaks over the waves, “Why are you so afraid?” (Repeat)

- **PRAYER**

Prayerfully meditate on Psalm 13. What word, phrase, or verse is standing out to you? Which statements ring true with your heart right now? What is God saying? What are you needing to say to God? Let it guide your prayer, for you and for others.

- **SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 42 (NIV)

¹ As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.

² **My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?**

³ My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

⁴ **These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.**

⁵ Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

⁶ **My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.**

⁷ Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

⁸ **By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.**

⁹ I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?”

¹⁰ **My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?”**

¹¹ Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

- **SONG**

“Psalm 42” to the tune of “Morning Song” (My Soul Gives Glory to My God Hymn #198)
© 2012 Julie Tennent

Click here - <https://www.seedbed.com/soundtrack-music/>

Morning Song
Common meter

Wyeth's Repository Sacred Music

Dm Gm A Dm C F

Dm Gm A Dm C Dm

- 1 As the deer pants for water clear, so my soul thirsts for You;
- 2 My soul thirsts for the living God; when can I meet with You?
- 3 My tears have been my food all day, and also through the night;
While men mock me and say all day, “Where is your God of might?”
- 4 These things I do remember well, as I pour out my soul:
How I went with the multitude into the house of God.
I led the great procession with a shout of joy and song,
With thanks and praise I went among the festive, joyful throng.
- 5 Why are you so downcast, my soul? Why so disturbed in me?
Put hope in God—I’ll praise Him yet; my Savior God is He!
- 6 My soul is downcast within me, so I remember You,
From land along the Jordan, heights of Hermon, Mizar, too.
- 7 Deep calls to deep within the roar of Your great waterfalls;
Your waves and breakers swept o’er me; they flooded without pause.
- 8 By day the LORD directs His love, His steadfast love to me;
At night His song is with me still—my prayer to God will be.
- 9 I say to God my Rock, “O why have You forgotten me?
Why must I mourn all day oppressed by the vile enemy?”
- 10 My bones do suffer mortal pain; my foes taunt me all day.
“Where is your God?” they mock with scorn, “Where is your God?” they say.
- 11 Why are you so downcast, my soul? Why so disturbed in me?
Put hope in God—I’ll praise Him yet; my Savior God is He!

- **PRAYER**

Prayerfully meditate on Psalm 42. What word, phrase, or verse is standing out to you? Which statements ring true with your heart right now? What is God saying? What are you needing to say to God? Let it guide your prayer, for you and for others.

• **SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 23 (NIV)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

• **SONG**

“Psalm 23” to the Tune of “Amazing Grace”

(The metrical setting of Psalm 23 from the 1650 Scottish Metrical Psalter)

Click here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQEwy1GOltw>

1 The LORD's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie

2 in pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

3 My soul He doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, ev'n for His own name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.

5 My table Thou has furnish-ed in presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

6 Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

“Psalm 23 (I am not Alone)”

Click here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OIMGnPUAdw>

VERSE 1

The Lord is my Shepherd

He goes before me

Defender behind me

I won't fear

I'm filled with anointing

My cup's overflowing

No weapon can harm me

I won't fear

CHORUS

Hallelujah I am not alone

He's my Comfort always holds me close

VERSE 2

He always guides me

Through mountains and valleys

His joy is refreshing

Restores my soul

Mercy and goodness

Give me assurance

That I'll see His glory

Face to face

BRIDGE

Your Spirit lives within me

So I will walk in Your peace

Your Spirit lives within me

My victory my victory

- **PRAYER**

Prayerfully meditate on Psalm 23. Let the Word minister to your soul. Where do you find hope rising in your heart? Press into this in prayer.

Father, in these days of uncertainty, one thing is certain—you are our Shepherd. It is not enough to know about you and even who you are. I want to know you close, as my Shepherd. I want to know your voice, and trust your heart, and obey your whisper. Open my mind and heart today to draw near to you; maybe like never before. Come Holy Spirit, make fear subside and train my faith to arise. I pray in Jesus' name, amen. (J.D. Walt, Seedbed Daily Text)