



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH, 7PM

Join us outside in the pavilion or on [Facebook](#) and use this Guide to pray with us.

- **INTRO**

Welcome to another Prayer Service! We are praying through every Psalm together week by week, because we believe that *thriving in Christ* (our church vision) is about immersing ourselves in God's presence, God's word, and God's people. When we come together to pray the Psalms, *we're doing all three!* We need to be grounded in God's truth, God's presence, and the community of believers more than ever right now. Psalm 3 is an amazing example of how prayer can bring us on a journey from focusing on our problems to trusting in God—the journey from fear to faith, the journey from worry to trust. In a time like this, we need these prayers to direct our lives: let's allow God's Word and God's Spirit to guide us tonight. Let's pray together.

- **PAUSE**

"As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-center my scattered senses upon the presence of God." (Lectio365)

Pause and pray

Tonight we continue our journey through the Psalms by reflecting, meditating, and praying through **Psalm 3**. As we read together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"¹ LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! ² Many are saying of me, 'God will not deliver him.' ³ But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. ⁴ I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. ⁵ I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. ⁶ I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side. ⁷ Arise, LORD! Deliver me, my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. ⁸ From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people."

- **SONG**

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" [Click Here](#) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSVyD6luJz8>

CHORUS

Leaning, Leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, Leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms

VERSE 1

What a fellowship what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness what a peace is
mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms

VERSE 2

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
O how bright the path grows from day to
day
Leaning on the everlasting arms

VERSE 3

What have I to dread what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
I have blessed peace with my Lord so
near
Leaning on the everlasting arms

CCLI Song # 31779 Anthony Johnson Showalter | Elisha Albright Hoffman © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

• **Psalm 3:1-2**

“¹ LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! ² Many are saying of me, ‘God will not deliver him.’”

This is said to be “a psalm of David, when he fled from his son Absalom.” Later in his life, towards the end of his reign, David was caught in the midst of a massive family and political crisis (see 2 Samuel 15). Due to a contentious family history, David’s own son and grandson plotted a conspiracy to overthrow the king. David was caught in the awful tension between loving a wayward son and protecting a kingdom. If you have ever been in the midst of a deep family division or a complicated organizational conflict, you know how terrible and draining these things can be.

“LORD, how many are my foes!” David starts his prayer by simply *acknowledging* his problems to God: he is descriptive, direct, and honest; he does not “beat around the bush.” Something that changed the way I read the Psalms was when a teacher showed me that when the Psalms talk about “my enemies,” and “foes,” we don’t have to just read this as people. As we learn to pray the psalm for ourselves, we can replace “enemies” with all kinds of issues that threaten our well-being.

Who or what are the “enemies” that threaten my well-being today? What are the troubles threatening to “rise up against me” and surround me? Internal, personal issues? External problems and threats? World issues? Troubled relationships? Actual people? Take time to actually name these things before God: “God, this is what I’m feeling, God, this is what I’m struggling with, God, this is what’s coming against me and my family.” Pause and pray.

- **Psalm 3:3-6**

“³ But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. ⁴ I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. ⁵ I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. ⁶ I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side.”

Notice how David was raw and real about his problems, not sugar-coating the reality of his situation. But now he completely shifts his focus to the Lord: “you are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.” David had learned, from his earliest days as a shepherd in the fields, to the beginning of his kingship when he was hunted by Saul, to the peak of his leadership how to *run to God* with his problems.

Who or what do I run to with my troubles? When I feel surrounded by “foes,” is my instinct to reach for God, or something else? Take time now to take your focus off the problems you just named before God, and now think about God: name specific characteristics of God that you have seen in your life, worship God based on how He has demonstrated his character to you. Pause and pray.

“I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.” It’s amazing that David mentions *sleep* at a time like this. For most of us, when we are caught in troubles and conflict, the first thing that goes is our sleep: we lie awake wrestling with all the challenges of our life. Because he can take his focus from the troubles around to the God who reigns, David is able to *rest*. *Think about someone you know who is in the midst of great ordeals. Ask God to direct their heart towards His love and grace, pray for them to experience rest in God’s presence.*

- **Psalm 3:7-8**

“⁷ Arise, LORD! Deliver me, my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. ⁸ From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.”

After acknowledging his great problems and reflecting on God’s faithfulness, David finally makes a direct request to God. He takes the energy of his lamentation and his worship and directs it towards a desperate petition: “Arise, LORD! Deliver me, my God!” After venting this powerful prayer, he now rests in the trust that God is the Savior. “From the LORD comes deliverance.” There is an amazing progression in this prayer: it began with “many foes” and it ends with “the Lord’s deliverance.” It’s one thing to know *about* God; it’s another thing to *experience* God’s presence. It’s one thing to know *that* God is a savior; it’s another thing to experience God’s *deliverance*. The more we walk with God through life’s ups and downs, the more we will personally experience God’s faithfulness, coming to know God’s character. This is the walk of faith—and sometimes it is truly a roller coaster! No matter what, “From the LORD comes deliverance.”

Where is your focus right now? Are you looking at the host of troubles around you? Are you reflecting on God's past faithfulness? Are you resting in God's deliverance? Wherever you are, simply bring it to God. Present your heart to God, and rest in His presence. Pause and pray.

- **SONG**

“Whom Shall I Fear” Click Here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOkImV2cJDg>

VERSE 1

You hear me when I call
You are my morning song
Though darkness fills the night
It cannot hide the light
Whom shall I fear
You crush the enemy underneath my feet
You are my sword and shield
Though troubles linger still
Whom shall I fear

CHORUS

I know Who goes before me
I know Who stands behind
The God of angel armies is always by my side
The One who reigns forever
He is a friend of mine

The God of angel armies is always by my side

VERSE 2

My strength is in Your name
For You alone can save
You will deliver me
Yours is the victory
Whom shall I fear
Whom shall I fear

BRIDGE

(And) nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in Your hands
I'm holding on to Your promises
You are faithful
You are faithful

CCLI Song # 6440288 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Scott Cash © 2012 Alletrop Music

- **Closing**

***“Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way.
Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.
Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen.”***
(Lectio365)