



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 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 the Psalms, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, so that we can immerse ourselves in God's Presence, in God's Word, and in God's People, and learn what it means to *Thrive in Christ*. Our society continues to walk through this tenuous season, with communities all over beginning to reenter schools, and stress with the unknown at an all-time high. We want to be grounding ourselves in God's Kingdom realities and praying for our community to experience those Kingdom realities *more and more*. **Psalm 4** teaches us to pray, seeking God in our distress and on behalf of others; it encourages us to be introspective about our own problems even as we pray for those around us; finally, it models a sense of rest and peace in God's sovereign goodness. All of these are things we need right now! Let's pray.

• 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

As we read **Psalm 4** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"¹ Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. ² How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? ³ Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. ⁴ Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. ⁵ Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD. ⁶ Many, LORD, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?" Let the light of your face shine on us. ⁷ Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound. ⁸ In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety."

Let's sing together and worship the Lord:

- **SONG**

“Lord I Need You” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/LuvfMDhTyMA>

VERSE 1

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

CHORUS

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

BRIDGE

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

VERSE 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more

CCLI Song # 5925687 Christy Nockels | Daniel Carson | Jesse Reeves | Kristian Stanfill | Matt Maher © 2011 sixsteps Music

- **Psalm 4:1**

“Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.”

With an openness to the whispers of the Holy Spirit, meditate on this verse. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you? Reflect and pray on this.

The phrase here for “Give me relief” in the original Hebrew language literally means “make a spacious place for me.” *Make a spacious place for me, God.* When we are “distressed” from internal or external factors, it feels like being trapped, being caged in, being surrounded, being stuck. Conversely, deliverance from our distress feels like *being set free.* Here’s the good news: freedom can be found *in the Lord, our righteous, merciful God.* This prayer shows us that to be “set free,” we don’t necessarily have to see immediate changes in our circumstances: we just have to find our rest in the Lord. We find that God has prepared a spacious place for us in His own heart. It matters not how many distresses surround us; the infinite God is *with us* and frees us!

Name the sources of your distress to God and ask him to give you freedom to run in the wide open spaces of His heart. Then pray for those you know who are in distress, that they may experience the freedom of God.

Pause and pray.

- **Psalm 4:2-5**

“How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD.”

The context of this prayer of David seems to be a time in which the people of the land blamed the king for some calamity (perhaps a draught, v. 7). In times of distress, we tend to look for people to blame, don't we? We blame our families, our neighbors, our bosses, our leaders, we even blame God. And, as tensions rise, we also take upon ourselves the burdens and expectations of others. In this tense time, the Psalmist tells his hearers to direct their focus away from blaming their leader, and instead, remember a healthy fear of God and direct their attention *within*: *“Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.”*

When is the last time you “searched your heart” in silence before the Lord? Sit in stillness and silence, in awe before God, and invite the Lord to search your heart with you. What false idols need to be displaced? What delusions need to be denounced? What sins need to be confessed? What burdens need to be relinquished? “Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the Lord.” Pause and pray.

- **Psalm 4:6-8**

“Many, LORD, are asking, ‘Who will bring us prosperity?’ Let the light of your face shine on us. Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound. In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.”

In the midst of the rancor of the peoples' slanderous accusations and unfair expectations, King David, the leader, is somehow able to pray, *“In peace I lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.”* His prayer models for us the ability to find self-worth, freedom, and peace not in the expectations of others, nor the constant change of present circumstances, but in the Lord: *“for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.”*

What are the specific areas in which our community is crying out for “prosperity” right now? Name specific places of distress and need, and after each, pray “Let the light of your face shine on us.”

“In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.” Thinking of the essential workers, the teachers, the students, the leaders, the families out of work, the elderly in isolation, any others who face new challenges tomorrow morning, and your own life, pray into this promise: “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.” Pause and pray.

- **SONG**

“King of My Heart” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/EpqSbKYxd9Y>

VERSE 1

Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life
Oh He is my song

CHORUS

You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh

VERSE 2

Let the King of my heart
Be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves
Oh He is my song

Let the King of my heart
Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days
Oh He is my song

BRIDGE

You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down

ENDING

When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on
When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on

CCLI Song # 7046145 John Mark McMillan | Sarah McMillan © Meaux Jeux 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)