



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, January 13th, 2021

Join us at 7pm in the Sanctuary or on [Facebook](#) and use this guide to pray along with us.

• INTRO

Welcome to Prayer Service! We're continuing to pray through the Psalms, one by one. Prayer is so needed right now, and one of the best ways we can pray is to pray God's word. Last week we started Psalm 18, the fourth-longest Psalm at 50 verses. Tonight, we'll finish with portions from the second half of this prayer-song. It's a powerful and vivid prayer that seems to have come out of a time in King David's life, early in his journey, when he was mightily delivered from Saul and his enemies. It's a rich prayer that will lead us to celebrate God's power, let's get started with part two of Psalm 18.

• 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 the second half **Psalm 18** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"¹⁶ He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters... ¹⁹ He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me. ²⁰ The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me. ²¹ For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I am not guilty of turning from my God. ²² All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees. ²³ I have been blameless before him and have kept myself from sin. ²⁴ The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight. ²⁵ To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, ²⁶ to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the devious you show yourself shrewd. ²⁷ You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty. ²⁸ You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. ²⁹ With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. ³⁰ As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. ³¹ For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? ³² It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure. ³³ He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights. ³⁴ He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. ³⁵ You make your saving help my shield, and your right hand sustains me; your help has made me great. ³⁶ You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way... ⁴⁶ The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior! ⁴⁷ He is the God who avenges me, who subdues nations under me, ⁴⁸ who saves me from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; from a violent man you rescued me. ⁴⁹ Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name. ⁵⁰ He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing love to his anointed, to David and to his descendants forever." (Psalm 18:16, 19-36, 46-50)

- **SONGS**

“Raise a Hallelujah” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/FRo7kFI7hBw>

VERSE 1

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah Heaven comes to fight for me

CHORUS

I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated the King is alive

VERSE 2

I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah fear you lost your hold on me

BRIDGE

Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (in the presence of my enemies)
Sing a little louder (louder than the unbelief)
Sing a little louder (my weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)

CCLI Song # 7119315 Jake Stevens | Jonathan David Helser | Melissa Helser | Molly Skaggs © 2018 Bethel Music Publishing

- **PSALM 18:**

There are parts about this prayer that we'll have trouble identifying with: none of us have been anointed to be kings or queens of a nation; none of us have likely had to flee for our lives from murderous and wicked enemies through the wilderness; few of us have experienced what it's like to live outside of the relatively secure existence of life in 21st Century America. These are particular things about king David's experience that make their way into this prayer that we have inherited as God's inspired Word. There is a regal and fierce zeal to this prayer that may seem strange to us. And yet, just as king David foreshadowed the greater Messiah and Savior who would come from his line, the experience of God's powerful deliverance here foreshadows the greater, once-and-for all salvation of God for all humankind from our great Enemy.

God is perfectly good, perfectly powerful, and perfectly wise. God is Holy Love. And God is *fiercely committed* to our highest good. Nothing can stop His redeeming work in our lives when we surrender to Him. C.S. Lewis in the famous *Chronicles of Narnia* captured this unique blend of fierce-goodness in the Lion, Aslan (representing Christ). At one part in the series, Lucy talks to a Narnian about the Lion: “*Then he isn't safe?*” asked Lucy. *‘Safe?...Who said anything about safe? Of course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you.’*” We can see something like that in Psalm 18, and it fills our hearts with awe and wonder, to think that this God is *our God, our Savior*.

As we pray and reflect on the second half of Psalm 18 tonight, we'll do it a little differently than usual: let's just highlight individual verses, read them slowly and prayerfully, and let faith and love rise in our hearts as we hear and pray the Word.

“He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.” (v. 19)

Pause and Pray.

“To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the devious you show yourself shrewd.” (v. 25-26)

Pause and Pray.

“You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.” (v. 28)

Pause and Pray.

“As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD’s word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?” (v. 30-31)

Pause and Pray.

“It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure..” (v. 32)

Pause and Pray.

“You make your saving help my shield, and your right hand sustains me; your help has made me great. You provide a broad path for my feet...” (v. 35-36)

Pause and Pray.

“The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior! ... I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name.” (v. 46, 49)

Pause and Pray.

- **SONG**

“Mighty to Save” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/GEAcs2B-kNc>

VERSE 1

Ev'ryone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

CHORUS

Saviour He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

VERSE 2

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Ev'rything I believe in, now I surrender

BRIDGE

Shine your light and let the whole world
see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King
Jesus
Shine your light and let the whole world
see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King

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- **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)***