



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, January 20, 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! Psalm 19 is a special one, a favorite of many. As we've seen so far, many of these prayer-songs bring us in touch with the nitty-gritty realities of life: they're real and they're raw. They show us how to bring our greatest battles and all our different emotions to God. But throughout this incredible and diverse songbook, we also find Psalms like this one, which lift our focus away from the struggles of daily-life in this fallen world and poetically captivate us with the glory of God (Psalm 8, Psalm 19, Psalm 23, Psalm 139 are examples). C.S. Lewis once said about Psalm 19: *"I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world."* It has the grace, subtlety, depth and nuance of excellent poetry. So, enjoy! Let the richness of these words wash over you in prayer and shape your heart and mind towards the Kingdom of God. 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 the second half **Psalm 19** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. ³ They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴ Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. ⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. ⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth. ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. ¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. ¹¹ By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. ¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

- **SONGS**

“How Great Thou Art” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/EueRjHaGbS4>

VERSE 1

O Lord my God
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made
I see the stars
I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout
The universe displayed

CHORUS

Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art
Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art

VERSE 2

When through the woods
And forest glades I wander
And hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees

When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook
And feel the gentle breeze

VERSE 3

And when I think
That God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die
I scarce can take it in
That on the cross
My burden gladly bearing
He bled and died
To take away my sin

VERSE 4

When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home
What joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim
My God how great Thou art

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- **PSALM 19:1-6**

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. ³ They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴ Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. ⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. ⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

At Prayer Services, we often meditate on the Psalms in the style of an ancient prayer practice called “Lectio Divina,” where we look for potent words or phrases and ideas that the Spirit seems to be pressing upon our minds and allow it to guide our prayers into communion with God through His Word. *Praying the Word.* That way focuses more on thoughts and ideas, on thinking it through and letting the Word think through us. But we can also meditate on God’s Words in more imaginative ways, especially for those parts of Scripture that give us stories or vivid imagery.

As you meditate on this first part of the Psalm, try to focus on the *images*. Reread the passage above and allow your imagination to run free. What do you *envision* as you read these words? What images, feelings, and experiences come to mind? Let the Spirit draw you into this glorious Word and move you to worship and surrender. *Pause and pray.*

- **PSALM 19:7-13**

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. ¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. ¹¹ By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. ¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

This seems like a sudden transition, going from the imagery of the glorious skies to a reflection on the Law of the Lord. But the switch is intentional. We're supposed to have that imagery of the way the skies masterfully proclaim the handiwork and glory of God in our minds as we read about the beauty and perfection of His Law, His Words of revelation to His people. We're intended to make the connection, *if the moon and stars, the beautiful works of His hands obey Him and declare His praises, will I?* Reread the passage above slowly and prayerfully. *Pause and pray.*

- **PSALM 19:14**

¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Some translations read more generally, "May *the* words of my mouth and *the* meditations of my heart be pleasing to you..." This is a powerful prayer for every day. Just spend some time savoring and meditating on this. Let it open your heart and mind to God. Let Him lead you. *Pause and pray.*

- **SONG**

This is a newer song we haven't sung before by the popular worship artists of Hillsong. It captures the heart of Psalm 19 by reflecting from the grandeur of God's creation to the response of our lives, but then it takes it a step further by reflecting forward from the Psalm to Calvary. It's a really beautiful and powerful work, let it minister to you and move your heart to worship.

"So Will I (100 Billion X)" Click Here - <https://youtu.be/GfVd5x9W1Xc>

VERSE 1

God of creation
There at the start before the beginning of
time
With no point of ref'rence
You spoke to the dark
And fleshed out the wonder of light

CHORUS 1

And as You speak
A hundred billion galaxies are born
In the vapour of Your breath the planets
form
If the stars were made to worship so will I
I can see Your heart in ev'rything You've
made
Ev'ry burning star a signal fire of grace
If creation sings Your praises so will I

VERSE 2

God of Your promise
You don't speak in vain no syllable empty
or void
For once You have spoken
All nature and science
Follow the sound of Your voice

CHORUS 2

And as You speak
A hundred billion creatures catch Your
breath
Evolving in pursuit of what You said
If it all reveals Your nature so will I
I can see Your heart in ev'rything You say
Ev'ry painted sky a canvas of Your grace
If creation still obeys You so will I
So will I
So will I

BRIDGE

If the stars were made to worship so will I

If the mountains bow in rev'rence so will I
If the oceans roar Your greatness so will I
For if ev'rything exists to lift You high
so will I
If the wind goes where You send it so will I
If the rocks cry out in silence so will I
If the sum of all our praises still falls shy
Then we'll sing again a hundred billion
times

VERSE 3

God of salvation
You chased down my heart
Through all of my failure and pride
On a hill You created the light of the world
Abandoned in darkness to die

CHORUS 3

And as You speak
A hundred billion failures disappear
Where You lost Your life so I could find it
here
If You left the grave behind You so will I
I can see Your heart in ev'rything You've
done
Ev'ry part designed in a work of art called
love
If You gladly chose surrender so will I
I can see Your heart eight billion diff'rent
ways
Ev'ry precious one a child You died to save
If You gave Your life to love them so will I

ENDING

Like You would again a hundred billion
times
But what measure could amount to Your
desire
You're the One who never leaves the one
behind

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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)