



## PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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! If you're newer to this, we've been on a journey of praying through the book of Psalms, one at a time. The Psalms are like the Prayer Book or Hymnal of the Bible for God's people through the ages—from ancient times to present day. We're doing this because our vision at Trinity is *thriving in Christ* (John 15), and we believe that one of the keys to this is immersing our lives in God's Word, in God's Presence, and in God's people. When we join together to read and pray the Psalms, *we're doing all three!* It's amazing to see the ways God shows up in our lives as we spend time in His Word and His presence together. Tonight is Psalm 21. It seems to flow right out of last week's Psalm 20: it was a prayer for the king's victory in the face of destructive opposition and a declaration of trust in God. We reflected on the call to pray for our leaders and on the ultimate Kingship of Christ. Psalm 21, in contrast, is a *celebration* of God's *victory* for the king—the prayers have been answered and the response is praise. We'll look at this Psalm through three lenses: first, the original context of the prayer for the kingdom of ancient Israel; second, in the wider context of the Bible's bigger Story, where it's fulfilled in Jesus Messiah, King of kings; third, in the context of our own journeys of faith. So, let's dive in and 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.*

As we read the second half **Psalm 21** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

**<sup>1</sup> The king rejoices in your strength, LORD. How great is his joy in the victories you give!**  
**<sup>2</sup> You have granted him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips.**  
**<sup>3</sup> You came to greet him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head. <sup>4</sup> He asked you for life, and you gave it to him—length of days, for ever and ever.**  
**<sup>5</sup> Through the victories you gave, his glory is great; you have bestowed on him splendor and majesty. <sup>6</sup> Surely you have granted him unending blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence. <sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the LORD; through the unfailing love of the Most High he will not be shaken. <sup>8</sup> Your hand will lay hold on all your enemies; your right hand will seize your foes. <sup>9</sup> When you appear for battle, you will burn them up as in a blazing furnace. The LORD will swallow them up in his wrath, and his fire will consume them. <sup>10</sup> You will destroy their descendants from the earth, their posterity from mankind...**

***<sup>11</sup> Though they plot evil against you and devise wicked schemes, they cannot succeed. <sup>12</sup> You will make them turn their backs when you aim at them with drawn bow. <sup>13</sup> Be exalted in your strength, LORD; we will sing and praise your might.***

- **SONGS**

“King of My Heart” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/VUW3tI4-5h8>

**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

**VERSE 2**

Let the King of my heart  
Be the wind inside my sails  
The anchor in the waves

**(VERSE 2)**

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

**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 © 2015 Meaux Jeux Music

- **PSALM 21:1-6**

***<sup>1</sup> The king rejoices in your strength, LORD. How great is his joy in the victories you give!  
<sup>2</sup> You have granted him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips.  
<sup>3</sup> You came to greet him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head.***

It's not always easy for us to relate to the original context of these Psalms for many reasons: for one thing, as Americans we live in a culture that's rooted as a democratic republic—*historically, we kind of have some baggage with kings and monarchies, when you think about it!* We also have trouble relating to the experience of the direct threat of enemy kingdoms vying to destroy their unlikely, underdog-community. The intense language about God's wrath against their enemies (v. 8-11) might seem uncomfortable to us, but for those who literally lived under the shadow of wicked, violent kingdoms who would destroy them and their families, it must have been encouraging to know that a powerful, faithful God and His good king were on their side. If your nation's very existence was threatened like this, you would praise God for the king's victory, too! At the same time, a key message of Psalm 20 and 21 was reminding Israel that their kingdom and kings were not like the other nations: the king is not the people's ultimate authority, true Lord, or Savior—that role is God's alone.

Their king was God's anointed and his success totally depended on God. His victory was not through his strength alone, but based on trust in God's steadfast love (verse 7). The blessing of the people depended on trusting in God's steadfast love as well.

When you really think about it, right now, who or what are you depending on for blessing and victory? In any area, is it time to reorient to God? *Pause and pray.*

***<sup>4</sup> He asked you for life, and you gave it to him—length of days, for ever and ever.***

***<sup>5</sup> Through the victories you gave, his glory is great; you have bestowed on him splendor and majesty. <sup>6</sup> Surely you have granted him unending blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.***

In the bigger Story of the Bible, we can't help but read this through the lens of Christ the King, who *fulfills* all of Scripture. He is the Messiah, the Lord's true anointed, and the King of kings—*our* King. And in this sense, the Psalm takes on a wider, eternal scope. The enemies and battles are not simply the things that come against our temporal well-being, but the powers of darkness and evil that oppose God's good will in our lives (see Ephesians 6, "Our battle is not against flesh and blood...") Jesus defeated the power of sin and death, not by the power of divine might, but by the power of divine Love, laying down His life that we might have life to the full and life eternal. He achieved an eternal victory and reward for us at the cost of His own *blood*! He conquered death, He reigns, and He will return to restore all things.

*How much more should we praise the Lord our God? Picture King Jesus in "splendor and majesty," and all He did for us. take time to worship the Lord. Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 21:7-13**

***<sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the LORD; through the unfailing love of the Most High he will not be shaken.***

If this Psalm can be about Christ Jesus and His people, in addition to the king and the people of Israel, then this Psalm can also apply to us: by grace, through faith, *we bear the name of Christ the King*. He is not only our Savior, but our model—our *teacher* whose footsteps we follow. If "...the king trusts in the LORD; through the unfailing love of the Most High he will not be shaken..." then we can say this for ourselves too. By the faithfulness of Christ, we too can now learn to live in faith, trusting God's Love.

Take time to meditate and pray on the verse above, reread it several times.

Insert your name and pray: "           ***trusts in the LORD; through the unfailing love of the Most High            will not be shaken.***"

Insert your family and your church: "                           ***trusts in the LORD; through the unfailing love of the Most High                            will not be shaken.***"

*Pause and Pray.*

- **SONG**

“The Blessing” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/YtpgKKqgfEA>

**VERSE**

The Lord bless you  
And keep you  
Make his face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord turn his  
Face toward you  
And give you peace

May his presence  
Go before you  
And behind you  
And beside you  
All around you  
And within you  
He is with you  
He is with you

**CHORUS**

Amen, Amen, Amen

In the morning  
In the evening  
In your coming  
And your going  
In your weeping  
And rejoicing  
He is for you  
He is for you

**BRIDGE**

May his favor  
Be upon you  
And a thousand generations  
And your family  
And your children  
And their children, and their children

CCLI Song # 7147007 Chris Brown | Cody Carnes | Kari Jobe | Steven Furtick © 2020 Capitol CMG Paragon

- **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)***