



## PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14<sup>TH</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! Prayer changes things. Prayer changes us. Prayer changes the world. Prayer changes history. Because prayer is how we walk with God and partner with him to seek the Kingdom in this world. We're here tonight because we believe that. We're here tonight because we desperately need God's presence, God's truth, God's Kingdom—and a great place to start seeking these is with the Psalms, the Bible's "Prayer Book." Tonight, it's Psalm 28, a short prayer of desperation and hope, packed with wisdom and truth that will bring our hearts in tune with God's heart. So, let's pause and breathe, let's let everything go before God, and let's open up our lives to marinate in his truth and his goodness 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 28** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

*"<sup>1</sup> To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit. <sup>2</sup> Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place. <sup>3</sup> Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts. <sup>4</sup> Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back on them what they deserve. <sup>5</sup> Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again. <sup>6</sup> Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy. <sup>7</sup> The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. <sup>8</sup> The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. <sup>9</sup> Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever."*

- **SONGS**

"Awake My Soul"

## VERSE 1

There is a sound I love to hear  
It's the sound of the Saviour's robe  
As He walks into the room where people  
pray  
Where we hear praises He hears faith

## VERSE 2

There is a sound I love to hear  
It's the sound of the Saviour's robe  
As He walks into the room where people  
pray  
Where we hear worship He hears faith

## CHORUS

Awake my soul and sing  
Sing His praise aloud sing His praise aloud  
Oh awake my soul and sing  
Sing His praise aloud sing His praise aloud

## VERSE 3

There is a sound that changes things  
The sound of His people on their knees  
Oh wake up you slumbering  
It's time to worship Him

## BRIDGE

And when He moves and when we pray  
Where stood a wall now stands a way  
Where every promise is amen  
And when He moves make no mistake  
The bowels of hell begin to shake  
All hail the Lord all hail the King  
Hey oh let the King of glory enter in  
Hey oh Fall down on your knees and  
worship Him  
Hey oh Let His praise rise up don't hold it in

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## • PSALM 28:1-2

***“1 To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit. 2 Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.”***

Have you ever experienced “the silent treatment”? It’s one of the worst things in a relationship, right? Maybe you angered a parent, a spouse, or a friend, and rather than lash out with words, they just said nothing. Sometimes, the silence hurts more than words of frustration. In this prayer, the Psalmist feels like God is giving him the “silent treatment.” We all go through times like this: our prayers feel like they’re falling on deaf ears, like they’re just drifting into outer space with no response. It’s encouraging to know we’re not alone—that even the heroes of Scripture experienced this. But what do we do with it? Psalm 28 can serve as a model: we shouldn’t allow these times to trigger defeat or despair; rather, we should allow it to spark *desperation*. Seek God all the more desperately, as if your very life depends on it. *“If you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the grave—I’m as good as dead. Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift my hands to your Most Holy Place.”*

The prayer begins, “To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock...” Even in times when God feels far away, when we’re in the midst of the struggle and we wonder if he’s ever going to respond, *God is still the foundation of our lives*. When everything else is shaken, God is our Rock; when life is like churning waves and shifting sands, he is the foundation. Take time to remember that God is the Rock we stand upon. Repeat these words, *“To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock...” Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 28:3-5**

***“<sup>3</sup> Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts. <sup>4</sup> Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back on them what they deserve. <sup>5</sup> Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again.”***

Part of knowing God as he really is means recognizing his perfect goodness and his fierce commitment to our highest good. If God is truly good, then he must be truly opposed to evil. God deplores evil and sin because it damages his good, beloved creation. But that also means we have to reckon with the sin in ourselves. The Psalms often bring the stark contrast between goodness and wickedness into sharp focus; many of these prayers contain passionate pleas for justice, because they come from a people who were deeply acquainted with injustice. Some of us today have trouble empathizing with this, but if you’ve ever experienced true injustice, you can resonate. At a greater level, we can also recognize that as followers of Jesus, we name our true enemies not as fellow humans of flesh and blood, but the spiritual forces of darkness—we live in a spiritual battle.

Take time to think of situations of injustice and evil you are aware of, small or great, near or far. Name them before God and call on him for justice and restoration. Stand in Christ’s authority and resist the forces of wickedness that try to thwart God’s plan. Also look inward and see if there is anything God is shining a light on in your life that needs the grace of repentance and the healing of Christ. *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 28:6-9**

***“<sup>6</sup> Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy. <sup>7</sup> The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. <sup>8</sup> The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. <sup>9</sup> Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.”***

By the end of this prayer, the Psalmist has moved from a place of desperation for God’s response to praise for God’s deliverance: either something has happened that changed the situation and the Psalmist is grateful, or something has changed inside the heart of the Psalmist to bring about a profound assurance that God has heard, God can be trusted, and God can be praised for the victory *even before it comes*. Both are valid: Can we recognize when God has heard our prayers and respond in thanks—or do we too quickly forget? Can we praise God *even before* we know that our prayers have been answered, with the confident assurance that he will respond?

There are so many life-giving words in this last section. Reread it several times, invite the Holy Spirit to speak, see what stands out to you, and just meditate on that thought with God. Allow it to guide your prayer for yourself and others. *Pause and Pray.*

- **SONG**

**“Come Thou Fount”**

**VERSE 1**

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love

**VERSE 2**

Here I raise mine Ebenezer  
Hither by Thy help I'm come  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home

Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wand'ring from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood

**VERSE 3**

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee  
Prone to wander Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above

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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)***