



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28th, 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 can know and understand God in so many ways: as the Creator who gives and sustains life to all things; as the Holy Eternal One, infinitely greater than we can imagine, mysterious in wonder; as the Judge, defining the standard of goodness and making wrongs right; as the Covenant Maker, moving towards humans to re-establish relationship by his grace. But the way in which we often begin to know God at a more personal level is as our *Deliverer*, our *Savior*. When God delivers, he transforms: he changes circumstances, he reverses situations, he sets free. Darkness to light, lost to found, death to life. Psalm 30 is a prayer of thanksgiving for God's *deliverance*: it comes from someone who experienced God's love and faithfulness *firsthand*; the Lord *saved* them when they had no other hope, and the result is *passionate praise*. What other response would be fitting? Anyone who comes to really know God personally sooner or later comes to know God as *deliverer*. Because it's God's deliverance, God's salvation, that allows us to come into true relationship with him in the first place. Jesus is the ultimate deliverance of God for the whole world. But we come to know God's deliverance in smaller-scale, personal ways in our own stories as well. And when we've experienced this personally, we can't help but worship. God is faithful. We are grateful. *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." (Pete Greig, Lectio365)

"Jesus, I give everything and everyone to you. I give everything and everyone to you, God."
(John Eldredge, Daily Pause)

Pause and pray.

As we read **Psalm 30** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"1 I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. 2 LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me. 3 You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit. 4 Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. 5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. 6 When I felt secure, I said, 'I will never be shaken.' 7 LORD, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed. 8 To you, LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy: 9 'What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness? 10 Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help.' 11 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, 12 that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever."

- **SONGS**

“Way Maker”

VERSE 1

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

CHORUS

(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise
Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You
are

VERSE 2

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You

VERSE 3

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

TAG

That is who You are, That is who You are
That is who You are, That is who You are

BRIDGE

Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

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“Surrounded (Fight My Battles)”

CHORUS

This is how I fight my battles
This is how I fight my battles
(This is how I)

BRIDGE

It may look like I'm surrounded
But I'm surrounded by You
It may look like I'm surrounded
But I'm surrounded by You

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• **PSALM 30:1-3**

“1 I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. 2 LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me. 3 You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.”

This Psalm shows the importance of making our praise *specific*, connecting our worship to our *actual experience*. Are we guilty of sometimes being so general in our praises and prayers that they mean next to nothing? Do we take time to call to mind what we've actually seen God do in our lives, or do we just go on living without acknowledging him? (Think of the story of Jesus and the ten Lepers in Luke 17: he healed all ten of them as a sheer gift of grace, but we're told only one, the Samaritan, returned to thank him.) The Psalms teach us that an important part of praising is *naming* the good things God has done, recognizing his grace in our lives, and responding with gratitude. The act of praise brings the redeeming work of God full-circle in our lives, and as we remember his faithfulness in the past, we find assurance for the present and hope for future. Take time now to think about specific ways God has blessed you, delivered you, and rescued you (and those close to you). Name these things before God and praise him authentically from your heart. *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 30:4-5**

“4 Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. 5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”

“Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.” This hope becomes ultimate in the work of Christ. Paul wrote in Romans 8:18, *“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”* John wrote in Revelation 21:4, *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”* Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning can apply to our present lives, but it applies to our ultimate destiny as well. Because of God’s *deliverance* in Christ, all things will be made new! Where do you see *weeping* in the world right now? What global events weigh on your heart? Who do you know that is crying out for deliverance? Is this true in your own life? Take time to lift these requests up to God, with the confidence that God is the one who saves and delivers, and that, whether in this life or the next, *rejoicing will come with the Morning. Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 30:6-12**

“6 When I felt secure, I said, ‘I will never be shaken.’ 7 LORD, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed. 8 To you, LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy: 9 ‘What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness? 10 Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help.’ 11 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, 12 that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever.”

“Who can praise you from the grave?” Here, the silence of death is contrasted with the voice of praise. When the Psalmist felt like God had turned away, like they had lost sight of God’s face, they cried out in desperation. When God moved to deliver them, they cried out in joyful worship. Where do you find yourself right now? Which of these prayers best fits where you’re at? *“Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help,”* or *“You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever.”* Choose one of these prayers to repeat slowly to yourself, meditate on it, and pray. *Pause and Pray.*

“Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help.”

...

“You turned my mourning into dancing...LORD my God, I will praise you forever.”

- **SONG**

“Victory in Jesus”

VERSE 1

I heard an old, old story
How a Savior came from glory
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me

I heard about His groaning
Of His precious blood's atoning
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory

CHORUS

O victory in Jesus
My Savior forever
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood
He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory
Beneath the cleansing flood

VERSE 2

I heard about His healing
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing
How He made the lame to walk again
And caused the blind to see
And then I cried dear Jesus
Come and heal my broken spirit
And somehow Jesus came and brought
To me the victory

VERSE 3

I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea
About the angels singing
And the old redemption story
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory

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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.” (Pete Greig, Lectio365)