



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2ND, 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 continue our journey of praying through the Psalms, week by week, because we believe there is power in God's Word, there is power in the unified prayers of Jesus' followers, and there is power in Jesus' followers coming together to *pray God's word*. The Psalms are the prayer book of the Bible: if we want to grow in a life of prayer and abide more deeply in Christ, the best thing we could do is let these ancient, God-breathed words fill our hearts and minds—let them teach us what honest, authentic, faithful prayer looks like in all seasons. That brings us to Psalm 35. *The battle*. That's where we get dropped right in, from the first line of the prayer. The Psalms remind us that life with God will be full of *battles* and *blessings*, but that the faithfulness of God is great enough to carry us through each and every season. What do we do when we feel attacked? What do we do when a storm suddenly erupts from what was just a moment ago a clear, blue sky? Who and what do we run to? What does it look like to cling to God in these totally wild and disorienting experiences? With Psalm 35, we'll get to pray through that for ourselves and others. Let's begin, let's face that battle, together, with 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." (Pete Greig, Lectio365)

Pause and pray.

"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 35** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

¹ Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me. ² Take up shield and armor; arise and come to my aid. ³ Brandish spear and javelin against those who pursue me. Say to me, "I am your salvation." ⁴ May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame; may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay. ⁵ May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away; ⁶ may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them. ⁷ Since they hid their net for me without cause and without cause dug a pit for me, ⁸ may ruin overtake them by surprise—may the net they hid entangle them, may they fall into the pit, to their ruin. ⁹ Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in his salvation. ¹⁰ My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them." ¹¹ Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about. ¹² They repay me evil for good and leave me like one bereaved. ¹³ Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered, ¹⁴ I went about mourning as though for my friend or brother. I bowed my head in

grief as though weeping for my mother. ¹⁵ But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee; assailants gathered against me without my knowledge. They slandered me without ceasing. ¹⁶ Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked; they gnashed their teeth at me. ¹⁷ How long, Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages, my precious life from these lions. ¹⁸ I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among the throngs I will praise you. ¹⁹ Do not let those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; do not let those who hate me without reason maliciously wink the eye. ²⁰ They do not speak peaceably, but devise false accusations against those who live quietly in the land. ²¹ They sneer at me and say, "Aha! Aha! With our own eyes we have seen it." ²² LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent. Do not be far from me, Lord. ²³ Awake, and rise to my defense! Contend for me, my God and Lord. ²⁴ Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God; do not let them gloat over me. ²⁵ Do not let them think, "Aha, just what we wanted!" or say, "We have swallowed him up." ²⁶ May all who gloat over my distress be put to shame and confusion; may all who exalt themselves over me be clothed with shame and disgrace. ²⁷ May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, "The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant." ²⁸ My tongue will proclaim your righteousness, your praises all day long.

• **SONG**

"Defender"

VERSE 1

You go before I know
That You've even gone to win my war
You come back with the head of my enemy
You come back and You call it my victory

VERSE 2

You go before I know
That You've even gone to win my war
Your love becomes my greatest defense
It leads me from the dry wilderness

PRE-CHORUS

All I did was praise
All I did was worship
All I did was bow down
All I did was stay still

CHORUS

Hallelujah You have saved me,
so much better your way
Hallelujah great Defender,
so much better your way

VERSE 3

You know before I do
Where my heart can seek to find Your truth
Your mercy is the shade I'm living in
You restore my faith and hope again

BRIDGE

When I thought I lost me
You knew where I left me
You reintroduced me to Your love
You picked up all my pieces
Put me back together
You are the defender of my heart

ENDING

All I did was praise
All I need to do is worship
Lord I will just bow down
I'm just gonna stay still

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• **PSALM 35:1-8**

¹ *Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me.*
² *Take up shield and armor; arise and come to my aid. ³ Brandish spear and javelin against those who pursue me. Say to me, "I am your salvation."* ⁴ *May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame; may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay. ⁵ May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away; ⁶ may their path be*

dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them. ⁷ Since they hid their net for me without cause and without cause dug a pit for me, ⁸ may ruin overtake them by surprise—may the net they hid entangle them, may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.

“Say to me, ‘I am your salvation.’” Do you believe that? Can you say that in your heart, truly? “Lord, you are my salvation.” What situations in your life and in the lives of others you care for do you need to hear God say, “I am your salvation—in this, in everything, I am your salvation,”? Think about that situation. Envision Jesus standing with you, looking at you, saying, “I am your salvation.” *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 35:9-18**

⁹ Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in his salvation. ¹⁰ My whole being will exclaim, “Who is like you, LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them.” ¹¹ Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about. ¹² They repay me evil for good and leave me like one bereaved. ¹³ Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered, ¹⁴ I went about mourning as though for my friend or brother. I bowed my head in grief as though weeping for my mother. ¹⁵ But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee; assailants gathered against me without my knowledge. They slandered me without ceasing. ¹⁶ Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked; they gnashed their teeth at me. ¹⁷ How long, Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages, my precious life from these lions. ¹⁸ I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among the throngs I will praise you.

“Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord and delight in his salvation. My whole being will exclaim...” “I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among the throngs I will praise you...” One fascinating thing about this Psalm, and others, is this concept of *praising God now* for something that hasn’t happened yet, praising God for deliverance even before it comes. Multiple times in this prayer, the Psalmist literally imagines the act of worshiping God with the masses, celebrating God’s victory with the assembly of God’s people. This is an audacious kind of faith and hope that could only come from a deep, abiding trust in God’s person: his perfect power, love, and wisdom. The amazing thing is, we who live in this new covenant through Christ can worship and pray in this way at a whole new level: because Jesus is alive, because his Kingdom is real, is *here*, and is *still to come in fullness*, we can worship like this all the time. We know *for sure* that whether he brings the healing and deliverance *now*, in this life, *later*, in this life, or *later*, in the life to come, *it will come*. With the return of Christ will come *the restoration of all things* (Acts 3:21). No matter how hard it gets, *we know that day of celebration is coming*, because *we know that Jesus is alive!* Therefore, we can praise him now, even before it comes! Because in Christ, “the new creation has come,” (2 Cor. 5:17).

What is something in your life, in the life of someone else, or in this world in which you long for healing and deliverance? Reflect on the fact that whether in this life or in the life to come, Christ is coming to restore the brokenness of this life with the new creation. Would we dare to praise God, right now, for something you haven’t seen answered yet, because Jesus is alive? *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 35:19-28**

¹⁹ Do not let those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; do not let those who hate me without reason maliciously wink the eye. ²⁰ They do not speak peaceably, but devise false accusations against those who live quietly in the land. ²¹ They sneer at me and say, “Aha! Aha! With our own eyes we have seen it.” ²² LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent. Do not be far from me, Lord. ²³ Awake, and rise to my defense! Contend for me, my God and Lord. ²⁴ Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God; do not let them gloat over me. ²⁵ Do not let them think, “Aha, just what we wanted!” or say, “We have swallowed him up.” ²⁶ May all who gloat over my distress be put to shame and confusion; may all who exalt themselves over

me be clothed with shame and disgrace. ²⁷ May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, "The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant." ²⁸ My tongue will proclaim your righteousness, your praises all day long.

This time, reread the passage above, slowly, prayerfully. How might God's Spirit be speaking to you here through his word, for your life or for the lives of others? What verse, phrase, or word are you being drawn to? Repeat it, meditate on it, pray on it. *Pause and Pray.*

- **SONG**

"See A Victory"

VERSE 1

The weapon may be formed but it won't prosper
When the darkness falls it won't prevail
'Cause the God I serve knows only how to triumph
My God will never fail, my God will never fail

CHORUS

I'm gonna see a victory
I'm gonna see a victory
For the battle belongs to You Lord
I'm gonna see a victory
You turn it for good, I know how this story ends

I'm gonna see a victory

For the battle belongs to You Lord

VERSE 2

There's power in the mighty Name of Jesus
Every war He wages He will win
I'm not backing down from any giant
I know how this story ends

BRIDGE

You take what the enemy meant for evil
And You turn it for good

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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)