



## PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, August 4<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! It is so *good* to come together, to worship the living God, to spend time praying and seeking and getting into his word. There is never a time when it's *not good* to get into the word and worship him! Because we need him---we need his wisdom, we need his presence, we need to walk by his Spirit to really live. So, however your day has gone, whatever your week has been like, you've come to the right place. It'll be worth it. Tonight we come to Psalm 43, which, even though it's been given a separate number, most believe is an *extension of Psalm 42*—they were probably at one time one continuous prayer. If you remember back to last week with Psalm 42, the prayer seems to be describing the experience of *exile*, where God's people have been dislocated from their home—the promise land, the holy city, with the holy Temple where God's special presence dwelt among them—and now they're living under the oppression of their enemies, thirsting for God's presence, longing to worship him in his earthly Temple. Yet, there's a continued message of hope with the repetition of, "*Why, my soul, are you downcast?...Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my savior and my God.*" Psalm 43 is pretty short, so we're going to reflect and pray through it several times, focusing our prayers in a different way each time. *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 43** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

***<sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked. <sup>2</sup> You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? <sup>3</sup> Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. <sup>4</sup> Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God. <sup>5</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.***

- **SONG**

**"Walk With Me"**

**VERSE 1**

Author of the world walk with me  
Ruler of the earth walk with me

Calmer of the storm walk with me  
Healer of my heart walk with me

## CHORUS

How I need You how I need You  
Oh Jesus walk with me  
How I love You how I love You  
Oh Jesus walk with me

## VERSE 2

Light for every step walk with me  
Giver of each breath walk with me

## BRIDGE

In Your presence Lord  
There is peace there is rest  
In Your presence Lord  
There is life that never ends  
In Your presence Lord  
There is joy there is joy  
In Your presence Lord  
There is life that never ends

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### • **PSALM 43 – My Life**

Since it's only 5 verses, we're going to read through this Psalm 3 times, focusing in a different way each. First, focusing inward, think about your own life: your needs, your prayers, your relationship with God and your praises. Reread the Psalm slowly. Ask God to draw your attention to a word, phrase, or idea that stands out to you, something that resonates with your soul in this moment or something he wants to say to you. *Pause and Pray.*

***<sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked. <sup>2</sup> You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? <sup>3</sup> Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. <sup>4</sup> Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God. <sup>5</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.***

### • **PSALM 43 – The Church**

Next, focus on others in your church family: it could be the overall church and their ministry, or someone particular. It could be a direct need you know of, or just a prayer for someone who comes on your heart. Read the Psalm again slowly, prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that stands out, and allow it to guide your prayer for that person or situation in your church. *Pause and Pray.*

***<sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked. <sup>2</sup> You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? <sup>3</sup> Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. <sup>4</sup> Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God. <sup>5</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.***

### • **PSALM 43 – The World**

Finally, direct your attention to the world: to a particular person you know who doesn't know Christ, to a certain people group, community, nation, or issue in the world. Reread the Psalm one more time with the same approach, asking God to speak, to draw your attention to a word or idea that will guide your prayers for his purposes in this world. *Pause and Pray.*

***<sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked. <sup>2</sup> You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?...***

<sup>3</sup> *Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.* <sup>4</sup> *Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.* <sup>5</sup> *Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*

- **SONG**

**“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”**

**CHORUS**

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

**VERSE 1**

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before  
me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

**VERSE 2**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

**VERSE 3**

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

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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)