



2024 Bible Study - by Andrea Brown - for VC Family

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Introduction

I firmly believe in starting a book at the beginning. None of this flipping to the last page for me. However, the workbook you hold in your hands has been built backwards. I was invited to build several weeks of Bible Study to precede a book-study on Nehemiah for VC Family this fall. Even though Ezra and Nehemiah show up as individual books in our Bible, most Biblical scholars I have read assert that they function as a single literary unit. So it made sense to read Ezra before Nehemiah.

One of the reasons I am looking forward to reading Ezra-Nehemiah is that they are not traditionally books that are frequently used in devotional bible study. Part of that is because they come toward the end of the narrative arc of the Old Testament and require a lot of background knowledge to make much sense of them. They also have rather unsatisfying endings - no pretty bow to tie up these narrative strings or bedtime stories to tell our children.

So, to give context, we are going to start at the very beginning - Genesis 1. The first three weeks of our study will review the stories of some of the central characters in the Biblical story. We will revisit the patriarchs, prophets, judges, priests, and kings and follow the narrative arc of God's presence, promises, and people throughout the whole story. Then, with this story clear in our minds, we will take a deep dive into Ezra-Nehemiah.

May your time invested in study and prayer bear much fruit as you grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Peace be with you!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Jaime Ives and Julie Henderson for inviting me to collaborate with you and for your hours of help brainstorming, proof reading, and celebrating this project.

The audio version of this workbook is thanks in large part to Mister Brown's donation of editing expertise and tech support, along with the host of readers who came together to make this a project by the church for the church.

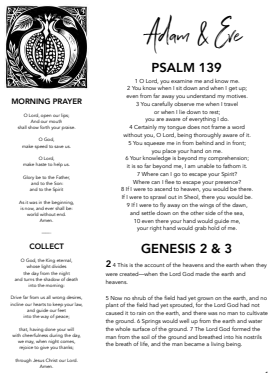
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How This Works

The heart of this study is an invitation to spend time in prayer and Bible reading. I will be sharing during our class sessions about some of what I have learned from my own time immersed in these texts but I am convinced that you will benefit the most, not from hearing about my time with God, but in investing your own time with God. In order to facilitate that, I have laid out the reading in three different ways that you can engage with it in the way that serves you best.

1

Daily Workbook: The full workbook has a print version of all the prayer and scripture for each day along with questions for discussion group.



2

Audio/App: An audio recording of all the reading is available online. The app also has links for recommended art and playlists for each day.



3

Weekly Summary: This single sheet will lists all the recommended reading for the week in one place.



Daily Rhythm

I would guess that the daily rhythm of my life is not exactly the same as yours. I will share how I incorporate this kind of study into the rhythm of my own life, but I invite you to find a rhythm that works for you. If you already have a regular habit of prayer and bible reading, I encourage you to only adopt as much of this as serves you. If you do not have a regular habit of reading and prayer, I invite you to try out the ideas below and adapt them to work with your own everyday life.

Read

The main section of each day is focused on reading scripture. The reading for each day includes a Psalm and a section from the Old Testament and New Testament. I have tried to keep the sections manageable - which for me means 15 minutes of audio / 5 pages of text. There are 4 'readings' per week. My hope is that this gives you enough time to complete most of the reading and to spend extra time on stories you find especially interesting. Some of these stories are quite long and it pained me to cut out so many interesting sections to meet the 15 minute goal. I hope that if a story catches your attention that you take the time to read all the sections I had to leave out.

Ponder

The last page of each day has suggestions in the sidebar for worship music and art pieces to ponder. Direct links to art and music are available in the app along with weekly playlists on Youtube, Spotify, and Apple Music.

I tend to be a person who worships with my mind first and it takes me extra effort to incorporate my cognitive learning into my everyday embodied practices. As I worked on this study, I have enjoyed incorporating art as a part of my regular rhythm of worship. Song writers, painters, and poets often lead the way in inviting us to respond to the word and work of God in active and embodied ways.

LISTEN

[So Will I \(100 Billion\)](#)
— Joe Raposo, Benjamin Dreyer, Matthew
A. Miller, Colin

[Darkness Love](#)
— Colson

[Dash & Bounce](#)
— Dash & Bounce

POUNDER

[Adam & Eve](#)
—

[The Peace of Wild Things](#)
— Wendell Berry

18 Consequently, just as condemnation for all people came through one transgression, so through the one righteous act came righteousness to all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man many were constituted sinners, so also through the obedience of one man many will be constituted righteous. 20 Now the law came in so that the transgression may increase, but where sin increased, grace multiplied all the more, 21 so that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6 1 What shall we say then? Are we to remain in sin so that grace may increase? 2 Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life.

COLOSSIANS 3

1 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him. 5 So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. 7 You also loved your lives in this way at one time, when you used to live among them. 8 But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with his practices. 10 and have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it. 11 Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all.

Daily Reflection & Prayer

Each reading ends with a page for daily reflection. This is mostly blank because you are welcome to use this in any way you wish. But again, I will start by showing you some of the ways I use this space.

Daily Reflection
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Begin by summarizing what you read in any way you would like. For me, this often includes a stick figure to represent any major characters and either symbols or bullet points to highlight anything that stood out to me. I also sometimes just write a brief summary of the story and use underlining or highlighting to make it easy to scan later.

Daily Prayer

Continue by reflecting on the places in the reading where you notice the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Conclude with prayer. You can use this section to write a Collect (see "how to write a collect" or note any prayers of intercession, petition, or praise. If you are listening to the audio, you will notice we conclude with The Lord's Prayer and a Collect (see pages 6-7 for more information on these prayers).

Weekly Reflection & Response

Each week concludes with a reflect & respond section that invites you to reflect on key learnings and consider what it looks like for you to respond in faith & faithfulness. This section will help you summarize your reading for the week and can be used for discussion in your small groups.

Reflect
What stood out to you from the reading this week?

Describe any thoughts or feelings you had while reading, praying, listening, or looking at art this week.

What did you notice about God, yourself, and the world?

What are you curious about? What questions, ideas, or themes would you like to explore more?

Respond
What would it look like for you to respond? Respond, explore a new idea, question, or can be almost anything including writing, painting, confession, emotion, and action.

The Lord's Prayer

I grew up convinced that pre-written prayers were boring and less genuine than spontaneous prayers. But as anyone sitting around a thanksgiving table waiting for an uncle to pray knows, sometimes spontaneity and length are not a good indicator of how meaningful a prayer is.

Interestingly, I held this opinion confidently while also having never really read many of prayers offered by our brothers and sisters throughout history. When I did encounter them in college, I was humbled to realize that my own prayers, while genuine, were limited by my own lack of experience. It turned out that the things I 'spontaneously' prayed about were far more repetitive than any book of common prayer.

If you are new to praying a pre-written prayer, I invite you to start with praying the Lord's Prayer. Being bored with it is like being bored with the ocean - I suspect that our boredom is user error. In my experience, if I am bored, it is often because I don't know enough to be curious. So I am including here some extra resources that have been instrumental in my own journey of re-discovering and growing my capacity for curiosity and engagement with this prayer that Jesus taught his own disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

Learn:

The Bible Project: [Why Did Jesus Give Us Prayer](#)
Travis Osborne - [When You Pray](#) sermon series

Listen:

Jonathan Roomie - [Lord's Prayer](#) (Aramaic)
Christopher Tin - [Baba Yetu](#) (Swahili)
Angel City Chorale & Jimmer Bolden, [Baba Yetu](#) (Swahili)
Friar Alessandro, [Pater Noster](#) (Latin)
Dayroyo Boulus, [Abun d'Bashmayo](#) (Suryoyo)
Pe Echad | [פֶּה אֶחָד](#) (Hebrew)
Matt Maher, [The Lord's Prayer -It's Yours](#)
Kings Return, [The Lord's Prayer](#)
Andrea Bochelli, [The Lord's Prayer](#) (lyric video)

Writing a Collect

If you choose to listen to the audio version of our daily readings, you will notice that each day ends with a prayer. This prayer is traditionally called a 'collect.' In all my reading I still can't figure out where this name came from, but a collect seems to be like the haiku of prayers. Do you remember being taught to write a haiku in elementary school? It is such a simple form that anyone can do it - there is no pressure to be profound. And yet, I am often surprised by the beauty and freedom that comes from following such a simple pattern.

Many of us learned our patterns of prayer from listening to adults pray in church. But we often struggle with the line between petition and performance when praying aloud. Reading the psalms is our first indication that prayer does not need to be pretty or pious, but it is best when it is honest. So I invite you to try writing a collect, not as art to perform but as a response to your reading and reflection.

A collect is often prayed in a worship gathering after people have read scripture and spent time in silence or aloud praying for individual concerns. The collect then wraps up the gathering and the time of worship. If you did a quick search, you could find collects for different everyday concerns and based on individual scriptures. There is no set length, rhythm, or rhyme to a collect, but there are a few common elements.

I first was led to see this pattern by Pádraig Ó Tuama in his book "Daily Prayer with the Corymeela Community." He points out 5 common elements of a collect and I have been writing collects as a part of the way I reflect on and respond to scripture.

Elements Of A Collect:

- 1 Address God
 - 2 Rehearse part of the story of God
 - 3 Name my desire - just one desire
 - 4 Offer my reason for desiring this
 - 5 Echo the name/story of God
- Amen (or word of praise)

Example Of A Collect:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you stretched out your arms of love on
the hard wood of the Cross that everyone
might come within the reach of your
saving embrace:
So clothe us in your Spirit
that we, reaching forth our hands in love,
may bring those who do not know you to
the knowledge and love of you;
for the honor of your Name.
Amen.



Patriarchs



Adam & Eve

READ

Psalm 139
Genesis 2:4-3:19
Romans 5:6-6:4
Colossians 3:1-11

LISTEN

So Will I
- Benjamin Hastings

PONDER

The Peace Of Wild
Things
- Wendell Berry



Abraham & Sarah

READ

Pslam 104
Genesis 11:27-12:9;
15-16; 21:1-7
Luke 1

LISTEN

Promises
- Maverick City Music

PONDER

Abraham and Sarah
- Rene Gross



Isaac & Rebekah

READ

Psalm 47
Genesis 22; 24
Revelation 5

LISTEN

Is He Worthy
- Andrew Peterson

PONDER

Rebekah
- R. Michelson



Jacob & Rachel

READ

Pslam 42
Genesis 25:19-34;
28:10-22; 29; 30:1-24
John 4

LISTEN

Same God
- Elevation Worship

PONDER

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown
- Charles Wesley

Adam & Eve

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Adam & Eve

PSALM 139

1 O Lord, you examine me and know me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I get up;
even from far away you understand my motives.

3 You carefully observe me when I travel
or when I lie down to rest;
you are aware of everything I do.

4 Certainly my tongue does not frame a word
without you, O Lord, being thoroughly aware of it.

5 You squeeze me in from behind and in front;
you place your hand on me.

6 Your knowledge is beyond my comprehension;
it is so far beyond me, I am unable to fathom it.

7 Where can I go to escape your Spirit?
Where can I flee to escape your presence?

8 If I were to ascend to heaven, you would be there.
If I were to sprawl out in Sheol, there you would be.

9 If I were to fly away on the wings of the dawn,
and settle down on the other side of the sea,

10 even there your hand would guide me,
your right hand would grab hold of me.

MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall show forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, the King eternal,
whose light divides
the day from the night
and turns the shadow of death
into the morning:

Drive far from us all wrong desires,
incline our hearts to keep your law,
and guide our feet
into the way of peace;

that, having done your will
with cheerfulness during the day,
we may, when night comes,
rejoice to give you thanks;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GENESIS 2 & 3

2 4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created—when the Lord God made the earth and heavens.

5 Now no shrub of the field had yet grown on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. 6 Springs would well up from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. 7 The Lord God formed the man from the soil of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

CONFESSION

Most merciful God,
we confess
that we have sinned against you
in thought,
word,
and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves.

We are truly sorry
and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us
and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

—

Grant your faithful people,
merciful Lord,
pardon and peace;

that we may be cleansed
from all our sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

8 The Lord God planted an orchard in the east, in Eden; and there he placed the man he had formed. 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow from the soil, every tree that was pleasing to look at and good for food. (Now the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil were in the middle of the orchard.)

10 Now a river flows from Eden to water the orchard, and from there it divides into four headstreams. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it runs through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is pure; pearls and lapis lazuli are also there). 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it runs through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it runs along the east side of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The Lord God took the man and placed him in the orchard in Eden to care for it and to maintain it. 16 Then the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat fruit from every tree of the orchard, 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die."

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion for him who corresponds to him."

19 The Lord God formed out of the ground every living animal of the field and every bird of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man named all the animals, the birds of the air, and the living creatures of the field, but for Adam no companion who corresponded to him was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he was asleep, he took part of the man's side and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the part he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

"This one at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one will be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is
darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and unites with his wife, and they become one family. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

3 1 Now the serpent was shrewder than any of the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Is it really true that God said, 'You must not eat from any tree of the orchard'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; 3 but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, 'You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, or else you will die.'" 4 The serpent said to the woman, "Surely you will not die, 5 for God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the tree produced fruit that was good for food, was attractive to the eye, and was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of it to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God moving about in the orchard at the breezy time of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the orchard.

9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 The man replied, "I heard you moving about in the orchard, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

11 And the Lord God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it." 13 So the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman replied, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all the cattle
and all the living creatures of the field!
On your belly you will crawl

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work,
or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

and dust you will eat all the days of your life.
15 And I will put hostility between you and the woman
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

16 To the woman he said,
"I will greatly increase your labor pains;
with pain you will give birth to children.
You will want to control your husband,
but he will dominate you."

17 But to Adam he said,
"Because you obeyed your wife
and ate from the tree about which I commanded you,
'You must not eat from it,'
the ground is cursed because of you;
in painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.
18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
but you will eat the grain of the field.
19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat food
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust, and to dust you will return."

ROMANS 5 & 6

5 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 (For rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person perhaps someone might possibly dare to die.) 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, because we have now been declared righteous by his blood, we will be saved through him from God's wrath. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, since we have been reconciled, will we be saved by his life? 11 Not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.

...

LISTEN

So Will I (100 Billion)

-Joel Houston, Benjamin William Hastings
& Michael Fatkin

Reckless Love

- Cory Asbury

Flesh & Bone

-Emma Nissen

PONDER



3334- Adam et Eve,
MME. FANNY MARC, Sculpteur,
Médaille II. Classe.

Adam & Eve

- Fanny Marc, 1906
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/
File:Sculpture_of_Adam_and_Eve.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sculpture_of_Adam_and_Eve.png)

The Peace of Wild Things

-Wendell Berry. 1968
<https://onbeing.org/poetry/the-peace-of-wild-things/>

18 Consequently, just as condemnation for all people came through one transgression, so too through the one righteous act came righteousness leading to life for all people.

19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man many were constituted sinners, so also through the obedience of one man many will be constituted righteous. 20 Now the law came in so that the transgression may increase, but where sin increased, grace multiplied all the more, 21 so that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

...

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COLOSSIANS 3

1 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, 3 for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him. 5 So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. 7 You also lived your lives in this way at one time, when you used to live among them. 8 But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices 10 and have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it. 11 Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Abraham & Sarah

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Abraham & Sarah

PSALM 104

MORNING PRAYER

*O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.*

*O God,
make speed to save us.*

*O Lord,
make haste to help us.*

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit*

*As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.*

Amen.

COLLECT

*O God our King,
by the resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
on the first day of the week,
you conquered sin,
put death to flight,
and gave us the hope
of everlasting life:*

*Redeem all our days by this victory;
forgive our sins, banish our fears,
make us bold to praise you
and to do your will;
and steel us to wait for the
consummation of your kingdom
on the last great Day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Praise the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord my God, you are magnificent.
You are robed in splendor and majesty.
2 He covers himself with light as if it were a garment.
He stretches out the skies like a tent curtain,
3 and lays the beams of the upper rooms of his palace on the
rain clouds.

He makes the clouds his chariot,
and travels on the wings of the wind.
4 He makes the winds his messengers,
and the flaming fire his attendant.
5 He established the earth on its foundations;
it will never be moved.

...

14 He provides grass for the cattle,
and crops for people to cultivate,
so they can produce food from the ground,
15 as well as wine that makes people glad,
and olive oil to make their faces shine,
as well as bread that sustains them.

...

19 He made the moon to mark the months,
and the sun sets according to a regular schedule.
20 You make it dark and night comes,
during which all the beasts of the forest prowl around.
21 The lions roar for prey,
seeking their food from God.

...

24 How many living things you have made, O Lord!
You have exhibited great skill in making all of them;
the earth is full of the living things you have made.

...

27 All your creatures wait for you
to provide them with food on a regular basis.
28 You give food to them and they receive it;
you open your hand and they are filled with food.

CONFESSION

Lord, though you should guide us,
we inform ourselves;
though you should rule us, we
control ourselves;
though you should fulfill us, we
console ourselves.

We think your truth too high,
your will too hard,
your power too remote,
your love too free.
But they are not!
And without them,
we are of all people most miserable.

Now heal our confused minds
with your word,
heal our divided wills
with your law,
heal our troubled consciences
with your love,
heal our anxious hearts
with your presence,
all for the sake of your Son,
who loved us
and gave himself for us.

Amen.

—

Almighty Father, who for your great
love of your creation
did give your dearly beloved Son
to die for us;

Grant that through his Cross
our sins may be put away, and
remembered no more against us,
and that, cleansed by his Blood,
and mindful of his sufferings,
we may take up our cross daily,
and follow him in newness of life,
until we come to his
everlasting kingdom;

through the Name of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

29 When you ignore them, they panic.
When you take away their life's breath,
they die and return to dust.

30 When you send your life-giving breath, they are created,
and you replenish the surface of the ground.

31 May the splendor of the Lord endure.
May the Lord find pleasure in the living things he has made.

GENESIS 11-21

11:27 This is the account of Terah.

Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. 28 Haran died in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans, while his father Terah was still alive. 29 And Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai. And the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah; she was the daughter of Haran, who was the father of both Milcah and Iscah. 30 But Sarai was barren; she had no children.

12 Now the Lord said to Abram,

"Go out from your country,
your relatives, and your father's household
to the land that I will show you.

2 Then I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you,
and I will make your name great,
so that you will exemplify divine blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
but the one who treats you lightly I must curse,
so that all the families of the earth
may receive blessing through you."

15 1 After these things the Lord's message came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield and the one who will reward you in great abundance."

2 But Abram said, "O Sovereign Lord, what will you give me

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

since I continue to be childless, and my heir is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Abram added, "Since you have not given me a descendant, then look, one born in my house will be my heir!" 4 But look, the Lord's message came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but instead a son who comes from your own body will be your heir." 5 The Lord took him outside and said, "Gaze into the sky and count the stars—if you are able to count them!" Then he said to him, "So will your descendants be." 6 Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord credited it as righteousness to him.

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not given birth to any children, but she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Since the Lord has prevented me from having children, please sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have a family by her." Abram did what Sarai told him.

3 So after Abram had lived in Canaan for ten years, Sarai, Abram's wife, gave Hagar, her Egyptian servant, to her husband to be his wife. 4 He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. Once Hagar realized she was pregnant, she despised Sarai. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You have brought this wrong on me! I gave my servant into your embrace, but when she realized that she was pregnant, she despised me. May the Lord judge between you and me!"

6 Abram said to Sarai, "Since your servant is under your authority, do to her whatever you think best." Then Sarai treated Hagar harshly, so she ran away from Sarai.

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring of water in the wilderness—the spring that is along the road to Shur. 8 He said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She replied, "I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai."

9 Then the angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her authority. 10 I will greatly multiply your descendants," the angel of the Lord added, "so that they will be too numerous to count." 11 Then the angel of the Lord said to her,

"You are now pregnant

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

O God,
the life of all who live,
the light of the faithful,
the strength of those who labor,
and the repose of the dead:

We thank you for the blessings
of the day that is past,
and humbly ask for your protection
through the coming night.

Bring us in safety
to the morning hours;
through him who died
and rose again for us,
your Son our Savior
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

and are about to give birth to a son.
You are to name him Ishmael,
for the Lord has heard your painful groans.
12 He will be a wild donkey of a man.
He will be hostile to everyone,
and everyone will be hostile to him.
He will live away from his brothers."

13 So Hagar named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "Here I have seen one who sees me!" 14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi. (It is located between Kadesh and Bered.)

15 So Hagar gave birth to Abram's son, whom Abram named Ishmael. 16 (Now Abram was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.)

21 The Lord visited Sarah just as he had said he would and did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 So Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the appointed time that God had told him. 3 Abraham named his son—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac. 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him just as God had commanded him to do. 5 (Now Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.)

6 Sarah said, "God has made me laugh. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." 7 She went on to say, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have given birth to a son for him in his old age!"

LUKE 1

5 During the reign of Herod king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah, and he had a wife named Elizabeth, who was a descendant of Aaron. 6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, following all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. 7 But they did not have a child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both very old.

8 Now while Zechariah was serving as priest before God when

LISTEN

Promises

Maverick City Music

—

Hear Him

-Emma Nissen

—

See Me

-Gloria Umanah

PONDER

Abraham & Sarah

-Rene Gross

https://renegross.art/projects/d0vzRQ?album_id=7770919

—

You Are Not An Answer

- Meister Eckhart

<https://www.christiancentury.org/review/books/how-christian-was-meister-eckhart>

*There is no Why in You
and so I must learn to trust
that You are not an answer
to my questions but rather
the source that is true before
every question I ever had
and the love beyond every
answer I will ever know.*

his division was on duty, ...11 An angel of the Lord, standing on the right side of the altar of incense, appeared to him. 12 And Zechariah, visibly shaken when he saw the angel, was seized with fear. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son; you will name him John.

...

24 After some time his wife Elizabeth became pregnant, and for five months she kept herself in seclusion. She said, 25 "This is what the Lord has done for me at the time when he has been gracious to me, to take away my disgrace among people."

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. ... 30 So the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God! 31 Listen: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

...

46 And Mary said,

"My soul exalts the Lord,

47 and my spirit has begun to rejoice in God my Savior,
48 because he has looked upon the humble state of his servant.

For from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 because he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

50 from generation to generation
he is merciful to those who fear him.

51 He has demonstrated power with his arm;
he has scattered those whose pride wells up
from the sheer arrogance of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up those of lowly position;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and has sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

55 as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Isaac & Rebekah

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Isaac & Rebekah

PSALM 47

All you nations, clap your hands.
Shout out to God in celebration.

2 For the Lord Most High is awe-inspiring;
he is the great king who rules the whole earth!

3 He subdued nations beneath us
and countries under our feet.

4 He picked out for us a special land
to be a source of pride for Jacob, whom he loves. (Selah)

5 God has ascended his throne amid loud shouts;
the Lord has ascended amid the blaring of ram's horns.

6 Sing to God! Sing!
Sing to our king! Sing!

7 For God is king of the whole earth.
Sing a well-written song.

8 God reigns over the nations.
God sits on his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the nations assemble,
along with the people of the God of Abraham,
for God has authority over the rulers of the earth.
He is highly exalted.

GENESIS 22

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." 3 So Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and

MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
you have made of one blood
all the peoples of the earth,
and sent your blessed Son
to preach peace to those
who are far off
and to those who are near:

Grant that people everywhere
may seek after you and find you;
bring the nations into your fold;

pour out your Spirit upon all flesh;
and hasten the coming of your
kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION

O Father,
we are gathered before you,
the Maker of Heaven and Earth,
whose chosen dwelling place
is with the broken and contrite,
to confess
that we have sinned in thought
and word and deed;
we have not loved you
with all our heart and soul,
we have not loved you
with all our mind and strength;
we have not even loved our
neighbor as ourselves.

Purge us from selfishness,
the fear of man,
and the love of praise.

In your mercy,
deepen our sorrow
for the wrong we have done
and for the good
we have left undone,
so that we may hate our sin
with a holy hatred.

But, please Father,
do not leave us in sorrow.

With you, O Lord,
there is forgiveness.
In your mercy,
restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love you with a holy
love.

Amen.

—

Almighty God,
who does freely pardon
all who repent and turn to Him,
now fulfill in every contrite heart
the promise of redeeming grace;
forgiving all our sins,
and cleansing us from
an evil conscience;
through the perfect sacrifice of
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

set out and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the boy will go over there; and we will worship and return to you." 6 And Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7 Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 And Abraham reached out with his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14 And Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

15 Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand, which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they got up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived in Beersheba.

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

GENESIS 24

Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in every way. 2 Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household who was in charge of all that he owned, "Please place your hand under my thigh, 3 and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live; 4 but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac." ...

10 Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and went out with a variety of good things of his master's in his hand; so he set out and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. 11 He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water when it was evening, the time when women go out to draw water. 12 And he said, "Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. ...

15 And it came about, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder. ...

22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold, 23 and he said, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to stay overnight at your father's house?" 24 She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor." 25 Again she said to him, "We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to stay overnight." 26 Then the man bowed low and worshiped the Lord.

...

29 Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring.

... But when food was set before him to eat, he said, "I will not eat until I have stated my business." And he said, "Speak on."

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. 35 The Lord has greatly blessed my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and slave women, and camels and donkeys. 36 Now my

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

—

EVENING PRAYER

Be present,
O merciful God,
and protect us through the hours of
the night,

so that we who are wearied
by the changes
and chances of this life
may rest
in your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

master's wife Sarah bore a son to my master in her old age, and he has given him all that he has. 37 My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; 38 but you shall go to my father's house and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son.' 39 Then I said to my master, 'Suppose the woman does not follow me.' 40 And he said to me, 'The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you to make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives and from my father's house; 41 then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my relatives; and if they do not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

...49 So now if you are going to deal kindly and truthfully with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me now, so that I may turn to the right or the left."

50 Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The matter has come from the Lord; so we cannot speak to you bad or good. 51 Here is Rebekah before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken."

52 When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the Lord. 53 And the servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother. ...

58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go." 59 So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse with Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"May you, our sister,
Become thousands of ten thousands,
And may your descendants possess
The gate of those who hate them."

...

63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he raised his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming. 64 Rebekah raised her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel. 65 She said to the servant, "Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?" And the servant said, "He is my master." Then she took her veil and covered herself. 66 The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; so Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

LISTEN

Still Rolling Stones

-Lauren Daigle

Is He Worthy

-Andrew Peterson

PONDER

Rebekah

Barry Moser, 1999

https://www.rmichelson.com/artists/barry-moser/the-holy-bible/9-rebekah-4_50x3_37/

Behold The Lamb Of God

Anthony Falbo, 2012

<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/behold-the-lamb-of-god-anthony-falbo.html>

REVELATION 5

Then I saw in the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne a scroll written on the front and back and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a powerful angel proclaiming in a loud voice: "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look into it. 4 So I began weeping bitterly because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered; thus he can open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 Then I saw standing in the middle of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the middle of the elders, a Lamb that appeared to have been killed. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then he came and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne, 8 and when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders threw themselves to the ground before the Lamb. Each of them had a harp and golden bowls full of incense (which are the prayers of the saints). 9 They were singing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals
because you were killed,

and at the cost of your own blood you have purchased for God
persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation.

10 You have appointed them as a kingdom and priests to serve our
God,
and they will reign on the earth."

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels in a circle
around the throne, as well as the living creatures and the elders.
Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand—thousands
times thousands— 12 all of whom were singing in a loud voice:

"Worthy is the lamb who was killed
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and praise!"

13 Then I heard every creature—in heaven, on earth, under the
earth, in the sea, and all that is in them—singing:

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise, honor, glory, and ruling power forever and ever!"

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Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Jacob, Rachel & Leah

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MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,
you stretched out your arms of love
on the hard wood of the Cross
that everyone might come
within the reach
of your saving embrace:

So clothe us in your Spirit
that we,
reaching forth our hands in love,
may bring those
who do not know you
to the knowledge and love of you;
for the honor
of your Name.

Amen.

Jacob, Rachel & Leah

PSALM 42

As a deer longs for streams of water,
so I long for you, O God!

2 I thirst for God, for the living God.
I say, "When will I be able to go
and appear in God's presence?"

3 I cannot eat; I weep day and night.
All day long they say to me, "Where is your God?"

4 I will remember and weep.
For I was once walking along
with the great throng to the temple of God,
shouting and giving thanks along with the crowd
as we celebrated the holy festival.

5 Why are you depressed, O my soul?
Why are you upset?
Wait for God!

For I will again give thanks
to my God for his saving intervention.
6 I am depressed, so I will pray to you
while in the region of the upper Jordan,
from Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

7 One deep stream calls out to another
at the sound of your waterfalls;
all your billows and waves overwhelm me.

8 By day the Lord decrees his loyal love,
and by night he gives me a song,
a prayer to the God of my life.

9 I will pray to God, my high ridge:
"Why do you ignore me?"

Why must I walk around mourning
because my enemies oppress me?"

10 My enemies' taunts cut me to the bone,
as they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

11 Why are you depressed, O my soul?
Why are you upset?
Wait for God!

For I will again give thanks
to my God for his saving intervention.

CONFESSION

Father in heaven,
we thank you for the freedom
you have given us
through the life, death
and resurrection of your Son.

But we confess today that we often
live like slaves.

Instead of
living like you delight in us,
we avoid you in shame and guilt.

Instead of
receiving your favor as a gift,
we try to earn it with our efforts.

Instead of
accepting your freedom,
we prefer our chains.

Instead of
pursuing your purposes, we cling
to our short-sighted agendas.

Forgive us. Embrace us.
Cleanse us. Heal us.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.
—

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips
tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free
from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future
in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more
in your likeness and image,

through Jesus Christ,
the light of the world.

Amen.

GENESIS 25-30

25 19 This is the account of Isaac, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac. 20 When Isaac was forty years old, he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. 21 Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. 22 But the children struggled inside her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she asked the Lord, 23 and the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples will be separated from within you.
One people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."

24 When the time came for Rebekah to give birth, there were twins in her womb. 25 The first came out reddish all over, like a hairy garment, so they named him Esau. 26 When his brother came out with his hand clutching Esau's heel, they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when they were born.

...

28 10 Meanwhile Jacob left Beer Sheba and set out for Haran. 11 He reached a certain place where he decided to camp because the sun had gone down. He took one of the stones and placed it near his head. Then he fell asleep in that place 12 and had a dream. He saw a stairway erected on the earth with its top reaching to the heavens. The angels of God were going up and coming down it 13 and the Lord stood at its top. He said, "I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham and the God of your father Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the ground you are lying on. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. And so all the families of the earth may receive blessings through you and through your descendants. 15 I am with you! I will protect you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you!"

18 Early in the morning Jacob took the stone he had placed near his head and set it up as a sacred stone. Then he poured oil on top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel, although the former name of the town was Luz. 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God is with me and protects me on this journey I am taking and gives me food to eat and clothing to wear, 21 and I return safely to my father's home, then the Lord will become my God.

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

29 So Jacob moved on and came to the land of the eastern people. 2 He saw in the field a well with three flocks of sheep lying beside it, because the flocks were watered from that well. Now a large stone covered the mouth of the well. 3 When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone off the mouth of the well and water the sheep. Then they would put the stone back in its place over the well's mouth.

...

10 When Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of his uncle Laban, and the sheep of his uncle Laban, he went over and rolled the stone off the mouth of the well and watered the sheep of his uncle Laban. 11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep loudly. 12 When Jacob explained to Rachel that he was a relative of her father and the son of Rebekah, she ran and told her father. 13 When Laban heard this news about Jacob, his sister's son, he rushed out to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban how he was related to him. 14 Then Laban said to him, "You are indeed my own flesh and blood." So Jacob stayed with him for a month.

15 Then Laban said to Jacob, "Should you work for me for nothing because you are my relative? Tell me what your wages should be." 16 (Now Laban had two daughters; the older one was named Leah, and the younger one Rachel. 17 Leah's eyes were tender, but Rachel had a lovely figure and beautiful appearance.) 18 Since Jacob had fallen in love with Rachel, he said, "I'll serve you seven years in exchange for your younger daughter Rachel."

...

21 Finally Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time of service is up. And I want to sleep with her." 22 So Laban invited all the people of that place and prepared a feast. 23 In the evening he brought his daughter Leah to Jacob, and he slept with her. 24 (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.)

25 In the morning Jacob discovered it was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What in the world have you done to me? Didn't I work for you in exchange for Rachel? Why have you tricked me?" 26 "It is not our custom here," Laban replied, "to give the younger daughter in marriage before the firstborn.

27 Complete my older daughter's bridal week. Then we will give you the younger one too, in exchange for seven more years of work."

28 Jacob did as Laban said. When Jacob completed Leah's bridal week, Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Be our light
in the darkness, O Lord,

and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils
and dangers of this night;

for the love of your only Son,
our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

29 (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) 30 Jacob slept with Rachel as well. He also loved Rachel more than Leah. Then he worked for Laban for seven more years.

31 When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, he enabled her to become pregnant while Rachel remained childless. 32 So Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "The Lord has looked with pity on my oppressed condition. Surely my husband will love me now."

...

30 When Rachel saw that she could not give Jacob children, she became jealous of her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children or I'll die!" 2 Jacob became furious with Rachel and exclaimed, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?" 3 She replied, "Here is my servant Bilhah! Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and I can have a family through her."

...

22 Then God took note of Rachel. He paid attention to her and enabled her to become pregnant. 23 She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Then she said, "God has taken away my shame." 24 She named him Joseph, saying, "May the Lord give me yet another son."

JOHN 4

4 3 [Jesus] left Judea and set out once more for Galilee.

4 But he had to pass through Samaria. 5 Now he came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, so Jesus, since he was tired from the journey, sat right down beside the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone off into the town to buy supplies.) 9 So the Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you—a Jew—ask me, a Samaritan woman, for water to drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you had known the gift of God and who it is who said to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said to him, "you have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do you get this living water? 12 Surely you're not greater than our ancestor Jacob, are you? For he gave us this well and drank from it

LISTEN

Same God

-Elevation Worship

Locus Iste

-Anton Bruckner

PONDER

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

-Charles Wesley, 1742

*Come, O thou Traveler unknown,
Whom still I hold but cannot see!
My company before is gone,
And I am left alone with Thee;*

*With Thee all night I mean to stay,
And wrestle till the break of day.
I need not tell Thee who I am,
My misery and sin declare;*

...

*My strength is gone, my nature dies,
I sink beneath Thy weighty hand,
Faint to revive, and fall to rise;
I fall, and yet by faith I stand;*

...

*Speak to my heart, in blessings speak,
Be conquered by my instant prayer;
Speak, or Thou never hence shalt move,
And tell me if Thy Name is Love.*

...

*I know Thee, Savior, who Thou art.
Jesus, the feeble sinner's friend;
Nor wilt Thou with the night depart.
But stay and love me to the end,*

*Thy mercies never shall remove;
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.
The Sun of righteousness on me
Hath rose with healing in His wings,*

*Withered my nature's strength; from Thee
My soul its life and succor brings;
My help is all laid up above;
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.*

*Contented now upon my thigh
I halt, till life's short journey end;
All helplessness, all weakness, I
On Thee alone for strength depend;*

...

*I leap for joy, pursue my way,
And as a bounding hart fly home,
Through all eternity to prove
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.*

himself, along with his sons and his livestock.”

13 Jesus replied, “Everyone who drinks some of this water will be thirsty again. 14 But whoever drinks some of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.” 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.” 16 He said to her, “Go call your husband and come back here.” 17 The woman replied, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “Right you are when you said, ‘I have no husband,’ 18 for you have had five husbands, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. This you said truthfully!”

19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you people say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” 21 Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You people worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, because salvation is from the Jews. 23 But a time is coming—and now is here—when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such people to be his worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” 25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (the one called Christ); “whenever he comes, he will tell us everything.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.”

27 Now at that very moment his disciples came back. They were shocked because he was speaking with a woman. However, no one said, “What do you want?” or “Why are you speaking with her?” 28 Then the woman left her water jar, went off into the town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Surely he can’t be the Messiah, can he?” 30 So they left the town and began coming to him.

...

39 Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the report of the woman who testified, “He told me everything I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they began asking him to stay with them. He stayed there two days, 41 and because of his word many more believed. 42 They said to the woman, “No longer do we believe because of your words, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this one really is the Savior of the world.”

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Reflect

What stood out to you from the reading this week?

Describe any thoughts or feelings you had while reading, praying, listening, or looking at art this week.

What did you noticed about God, yourself, and the world?

What are you curious about? What questions, ideas, or texts would you like to explore more?

Respond

What would it look like for you to respond? Remember, response is more than 'application.' It can be almost anything including worship, belief, confession, emotion, and action.



Prophets & Judges



Joseph & Asenath

READ

Psalm 146
Genesis 35:22-26
Genesis 37, 39, 48
Ephesians 1

LISTEN

Goodness Of God
-CeCe Winans

PONDER

Anchor Stone
- Filipe Tohi



Moses & Zipporah

READ

Psalm 111
Exodus 1-3, 7, 12, 15
Luke 22:7-20

LISTEN

Ngarra Bura Fera
-The Sapphires
Rescue
-Lauren Daigle

PONDER

Exodus
- Scott Erickson



Joshua & Rahab

READ

Psalm 116:1-9
Deuteronomy 6:4-9;
31:1-8
Joshua 1-2, 24
James 2:14-26

LISTEN

Do It Again
-Elevation Worship

PONDER

Rahab And The Spies
- Frederick Pickersgill



Deborah & Jael

READ

Psalm 27
Judges 2, 4-5
Hebrews 11

LISTEN

This Is Our God
-Phil Wickham

PONDER

Rosh Chodesh Fires
- Tatyana Z Cohen

Joseph & Asenath

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MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, the King eternal,
whose light divides
the day from the night
and turns the shadow of death
into the morning:

Drive far from us all wrong desires,
incline our hearts to keep your law,
and guide our feet
into the way of peace;

that, having done your will
with cheerfulness during the day,
we may, when night comes,
rejoice to give you thanks;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Joseph & Asenath

PSALM 146

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live.
I will sing praises to my God as long as I exist.

3 Do not trust in princes,
or in human beings, who cannot deliver.

4 Their life's breath departs, they return to the ground.
On that day their plans die.

5 How blessed is the one whose helper is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,

6 the one who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,

who remains forever faithful,

7 vindicates the oppressed,
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord releases the imprisoned.

8 The Lord gives sight to the blind.

The Lord lifts up all who are bent over.

The Lord loves the godly.

9 The Lord protects the resident foreigner.

He lifts up the fatherless and the widow,
but he opposes the wicked.

10 The Lord rules forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout the generations to come.

Praise the Lord!

GENESIS 35-48

35 Now there were twelve sons of Jacob— 23 the sons of Leah were Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, then Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun; 24 the sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin; 25 and the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's female slave, were

CONFESSION

Most merciful God,
we confess
that we have sinned against you
in thought,
word,
and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves.

We are truly sorry
and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us
and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

—

Grant your faithful people,
merciful Lord,
pardon and peace;

that we may be cleansed
from all our sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Dan and Naphtali; 26 and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's female slave, were Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

...

37 Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had lived as a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 These are the records of the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, when he was seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers, while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a multicolored tunic. 4 And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.

5 Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. 6 He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had; 7 for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf stood up and also remained standing; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." 8 Then his brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

...

12 Then his brothers went to pasture their father's flock in Shechem. 13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are your brothers not pasturing the flock in Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them." And he said to him, "I will go."

...

18 When they saw him from a distance, and before he came closer to them, they plotted against him to put him to death. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer! 20 Now then, come and let's kill him, and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A vicious animal devoured him.' Then we will see what will become of his dreams!" 21 But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands by saying, "Let's not take his life." 22 Then Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is
darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

not lay a hand on him"—so that later he might rescue him out of their hands, to return him to his father. 23 So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the multicolored tunic that was on him; 24 and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat a meal. But as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying labdanum resin, balsam, and myrrh, on their way to bring them down to Egypt. 26 And Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 Come, and let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. 28 Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him out and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. So they brought Joseph into Egypt.

...

39 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. 2 And the Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. 3 Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all that he did prosper in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and put him in charge of all that he owned. 5 It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; so the Lord's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. 6 So he left Joseph in charge of everything that he owned; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate.

...

46 Now Joseph was 30 years old when he began serving Pharaoh king of Egypt. Joseph was commissioned by Pharaoh and was in charge of all the land of Egypt. 47 During the seven years of abundance the land produced large, bountiful harvests.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

—

EVENING PRAYER

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work,
or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

48 Joseph collected all the excess food in the land of Egypt during the seven years and stored it in the cities. In every city he put the food gathered from the fields around it. 49 Joseph stored up a vast amount of grain, like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring it because it was impossible to measure.

50 Two sons were born to Joseph before the famine came. Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, was their mother. 51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, saying, "Certainly God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's house." 52 He named the second child Ephraim, saying, "Certainly God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

...

48 After these things Joseph was told, "Your father is weakening." So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him.

...

8 When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he asked, "Who are these?" 9 Joseph said to his father, "They are the sons God has given me in this place." His father said, "Bring them to me so I may bless them." ... 14 Israel stretched out his right hand and placed it on Ephraim's head, although he was the younger. Crossing his hands, he put his left hand on Manasseh's head, for Manasseh was the firstborn.

15 Then he blessed Joseph and said,
"May the God before whom my fathers
Abraham and Isaac walked—
the God who has been my shepherd
all my life long to this day,

16 the angel who has protected me
from all harm—bless these boys.
May my name be named in them,
and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac.
May they grow into a multitude on the earth."

EPHESIANS 1

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints [in Ephesus], the faithful in Christ Jesus. 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

LISTEN

Goodness Of God

- CeCe Winans

Coat Of May Colors

-Brandon Lake

PONDER

3 Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ. 4 For he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He did this by predestining us to adoption as his legal heirs through Jesus Christ, according to the pleasure of his will— 6 to the praise of the glory of his grace that he has freely bestowed on us in his dearly loved Son. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our offenses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. 9 He did this when he revealed to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 toward the administration of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ—the things in heaven and the things on earth. 11 In Christ we too have been claimed as God’s own possession, since we were predestined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, would be to the praise of his glory. 13 And when you heard the word of truth (the gospel of your salvation)—when you believed in Christ—you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of his glory.

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you when I remember you in my prayers.

17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and revelation in your growing knowledge of him, 18 —since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened—so that you can know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe, as displayed in the exercise of his immense strength.

20 This power he exercised in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms 21 far above every rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And God put all things under Christ’s feet, and gave him to the church as head over all things. 23 Now the church is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Fakaukau (or) Anchor Stone

Filipe Tohi, 1996

<https://artandtheology.org/tag/filipe-tohi/>

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Moses & Zipporah

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Moses & Zipporah

PSALM 111

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the godly and the congregation.

2 The Lord's deeds are great,
eagerly awaited by all who desire them.

3 His work is majestic and glorious,
and his faithfulness endures forever.

4 He does amazing things that will be remembered;
the Lord is merciful and compassionate.

5 He gives food to his faithful followers;
he always remembers his covenant.

6 He announced that he would do mighty deeds for his people,
giving them a land that belonged to other nations.

7 His acts are characterized by faithfulness and justice;
all his precepts are reliable.

8 They are forever firm,
and should be faithfully and properly carried out.

9 He delivered his people;
he ordained that his covenant be observed forever.
His name is holy and awesome.

10 To obey the Lord is the fundamental principle for wise living;
all who carry out his precepts acquire good moral insight.
He will receive praise forever.

EXODUS 1-15

1 8 Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power over Egypt. 9 He said to his people, "Look at the Israelite people, more numerous and stronger than we are! 10 Come, let's deal wisely with them. Otherwise they will continue to multiply, and if a war breaks out, they will ally themselves with our enemies and fight against us and leave the country."

...

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 "When you

MORNING PRAYER

*O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.*

*O God,
make speed to save us.*

*O Lord,
make haste to help us.*

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit*

*As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.*

Amen.

COLLECT

*O God our King,
by the resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
on the first day of the week,
you conquered sin,
put death to flight,
and gave us the hope
of everlasting life:*

*Redeem all our days by this victory;
forgive our sins, banish our fears,
make us bold to praise you
and to do your will;
and steel us to wait for the
consummation of your kingdom
on the last great Day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

CONFESSION

Lord, though you should guide us,
we inform ourselves;
though you should rule us, we
control ourselves;
though you should fulfill us, we
console ourselves.

We think your truth too high,
your will too hard,
your power too remote,
your love too free.
But they are not!
And without them,
we are of all people most miserable.

Now heal our confused minds
with your word,
heal our divided wills
with your law,
heal our troubled consciences
with your love,
heal our anxious hearts
with your presence,
all for the sake of your Son,
who loved us
and gave himself for us.

Amen.

—

Almighty Father, who for your great
love of your creation
did give your dearly beloved Son
to die for us;

Grant that through his Cross
our sins may be put away, and
remembered no more against us,
and that, cleansed by his Blood,
and mindful of his sufferings,
we may take up our cross daily,
and follow him in newness of life,
until we come to his
everlasting kingdom;

through the Name of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

assist the Hebrew women in childbirth, observe at the delivery: If it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she may live." 17 But the midwives feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live.

...

2 A man from the household of Levi married a woman who was a descendant of Levi. 2 The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a healthy child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she was no longer able to hide him, she took a papyrus basket for him and sealed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and set it among the reeds along the edge of the Nile. 4 His sister stationed herself at a distance to find out what would happen to him.

5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself by the Nile, while her attendants were walking alongside the river, and she saw the basket among the reeds. She sent one of her attendants, took it, 6 opened it, and saw the child—a boy, crying!—and she felt compassion for him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get a nursing woman for you from the Hebrews, so that she may nurse the child for you?" 8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes, do so." So the young girl went and got the child's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

10 When the child grew older she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "Because I drew him from the water."

11 In those days, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and observed their hard labor, and he saw an Egyptian man attacking a Hebrew man, one of his own people. 12 He looked this way and that and saw that no one was there, and then he attacked the Egyptian and concealed the body in the sand. ... 15 When Pharaoh heard about this event, he sought to kill Moses. So Moses fled from Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, and he settled by a certain well.

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

16 Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and began to draw water and fill the troughs in order to water their father's flock. 17 When some shepherds came and drove them away, Moses came up and defended them and then watered their flock. 18 So when they came home to their father Reuel, he asked, "Why have you come home so early today?" 19 They said, "An Egyptian man rescued us from the shepherds, and he actually drew water for us and watered the flock!" 20 He said to his daughters, "So where is he? Why in the world did you leave the man? Call him, so that he may eat a meal with us."

21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. 22 When she bore a son, Moses named him Gershom, for he said, "I have become a resident foreigner in a foreign land."

23 During that long period of time the king of Egypt died, and the Israelites groaned because of the slave labor. They cried out, and their desperate cry because of their slave labor went up to God. 24 God heard their groaning; God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 God saw the Israelites, and God understood.

3 Now Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to the mountain of God, to Horeb. 2 The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from within a bush. He looked, and the bush was ablaze with fire, but it was not being consumed! 3 So Moses thought, "I will turn aside to see this amazing sight. Why does the bush not burn up?" 4 When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him from within the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." 5 God said, "Do not approach any closer! Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 He added, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

O God,
the life of all who live,
the light of the faithful,
the strength of those who labor,
and the repose of the dead:

We thank you for the blessings
of the day that is past,
and humbly ask for your protection
through the coming night.

Bring us in safety
to the morning hours;
through him who died
and rose again for us,
your Son our Savior
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

who are in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a land that is both good and spacious, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the region of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. 9 And now indeed the cry of the Israelites has come to me, and I have also seen how severely the Egyptians oppress them. 10 So now go, and I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

11 Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, or that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 He replied, "Surely I will be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you bring the people out of Egypt, you and they will serve God at this mountain."

13 Moses said to God, "If I go to the Israelites and tell them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?'—what should I say to them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I AM that I AM." And he said, "You must say this to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

15 God also said to Moses, "You must say this to the Israelites, 'The Lord—the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is my memorial from generation to generation.'

...

7 So the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. 2 You are to speak everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh that he must release the Israelites from his land. 3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and although I will multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt, 4 Pharaoh will not listen to you. I will reach into Egypt and bring out my regiments, my people the Israelites, from the land of Egypt with great acts of judgment. 5 Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I extend my hand over Egypt and bring the Israelites out from among them."

6 And Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the Lord commanded them. 7 Now Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.

LISTEN

Wade In The Water

-The Spirituals

Tremble

-Lauren Daigle

No Longer Bound

-Forrest Frank

PONDER

God's Rebels

-Cody Miller

<https://www.codyfmiller.com/products/gods-rebels>

Deliver Us:

-Stephen Schwartz,

performance from London's West End
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUuaBTvtG8>

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 "This month is to be your beginning of months; it will be your first month of the year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel, 'On the tenth day of this month they each must take a lamb for themselves according to their families—a lamb for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a lamb, the man and his next-door neighbor are to take a lamb according to the number of people—you will make your count for the lamb according to how much each one can eat. 5 Your lamb must be perfect, a male, one year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You must care for it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then the whole community of Israel will kill it around sundown. 7 They will take some of the blood and put it on the two side posts and top of the doorframe of the houses where they will eat it. ... It is the Lord's Passover.

12 'I will pass through the land of Egypt in the same night, and I will attack all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both of humans and of animals, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, so that when I see the blood I will pass over you, and this plague will not fall on you to destroy you when I attack the land of Egypt.

14 'This day will become a memorial for you, and you will celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—you will celebrate it perpetually as a lasting ordinance. ... 17 So you will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because on this very day I brought your regiments out from the land of Egypt, and so you must keep this day perpetually as a lasting ordinance.

...

29 It happened at midnight—the Lord attacked all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the prison, and all the firstborn of the cattle. 30 Pharaoh got up in the night, along with all his servants and all Egypt, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no house in which there was not someone dead. 31 Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron in the night and said, "Get up, get out from among my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, serve the Lord as you have requested!...

LISTEN

O Mary Don't You Weep

-Bruce Springsteen

Rescue

-Lauren Daigle

PONDER

Exodus

-Scott Erickson

<https://scottericksonartshop.com/products/exodus>

Bithia's Defiance (article)

-Victoria Emily Jones, 2020

<https://artandtheology.org/2020/09/04/bithiahs-defiance-kelley-nikondeha-and-poet-eleanor-wilner-imagine-pharaohs-daughter/>

13 17 When Pharaoh released the people, God did not lead them by the way to the land of the Philistines, although that was nearby, for God said, "Lest the people change their minds and return to Egypt when they experience war." 18 So God brought the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea, and the Israelites went up from the land of Egypt prepared for battle.

19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the Israelites solemnly swear, "God will surely attend to you, and you will carry my bones up from this place with you." 20 They journeyed from Sukkoth and camped in Etham, on the edge of the desert. 21 Now the Lord was going before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel day or night. 22 He did not remove the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

...

15 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord. They said,

"I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously,
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

3 The Lord is a warrior—
the Lord is his name.

4 The chariots of Pharaoh and his army
he has thrown into the sea,
and his chosen officers were drowned in the Red Sea.

5 The depths have covered them;
they went down to the bottom like a stone.

6 Your right hand, O Lord, was majestic in power;
your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.

7 In the abundance of your majesty you have overthrown
those who rise up against you.

You sent forth your wrath;
it consumed them like stubble.

8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters were piled up,
the flowing water stood upright like a heap,

LISTEN

Ngarra Bura Ferra

-Jessica Mauboy

PONDER

Nagarra Burra Ferra

-Aboriginal Poem

<https://thejesusquestion.org/2015/07/09/ngarra-bura-fera-turn-back-pharaohs-army/>

Yunduk bekuk Jesu
Barwal bokuna yumina
Narwa bura Fera yumina
Yala

*(We're going to pray to Jesus
To bring some valiant soldiers
To drown old Pharaoh's army
Alleluia)*

The Last Supper

-Jen Norton, 2020

<https://www.jennortonartstudio.com/last-supper/>

and the deep waters were solidified in the heart of the sea.

...

13 By your loyal love

you will lead the people whom you have redeemed;
you will guide them by your strength to your holy dwelling
place.

14 The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will seize the inhabitants of Philistia.

...

18 The Lord will reign forever and ever!

19 For the horses of Pharaoh came with his chariots
and his footmen into the sea,

and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea on them,
but the Israelites walked on dry land in the middle of the sea."

20 Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a hand
drum in her hand, and all the women went out after her with
hand drums and with dances. 21 Miriam sang in response to
them,

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea."

LUKE 22

7 Then the day for the feast of Unleavened Bread came, on
which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 Jesus sent
Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us to
eat."

...

14 Now when the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table
and the apostles joined him. 15 And he said to them, "I have
earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the
kingdom of God." 17 Then he took a cup, and after giving
thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves.

18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of
the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 Then he took
bread, and after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them,
saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in
remembrance of me." 20 And in the same way he took the cup
after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for
you is the new covenant in my blood.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Joshua & Rahab

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Joshua & Rehab

PSALM 116:1-9

MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
you have made of one blood
all the peoples of the earth,
and sent your blessed Son
to preach peace to those
who are far off
and to those who are near:

Grant that people everywhere
may seek after you and find you;
bring the nations into your fold;

pour out your Spirit upon all flesh;
and hasten the coming of your
kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

I love the Lord
because he heard my plea for mercy,
2 and listened to me.
As long as I live, I will call to him when I need help.
3 The ropes of death tightened around me,
the snares of Sheol confronted me.
I was confronted with trouble and sorrow.
4 I called on the name of the Lord,
"Please, Lord, rescue my life!"
5 The Lord is merciful and fair;
our God is compassionate.
6 The Lord protects the untrained;
I was in serious trouble and he delivered me.
7 Rest once more, my soul,
for the Lord has vindicated you.
8 Yes, Lord, you rescued my life from death,
kept my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
9 I will serve the Lord
in the land of the living.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

6 4 "Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 5 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 And you shall repeat them diligently to your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. 8 You shall also tie them as a sign to your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead. 9 You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

CONFESSION

O Father,
we are gathered before you,
the Maker of Heaven and Earth,
whose chosen dwelling place
is with the broken and contrite,
to confess
that we have sinned in thought
and word and deed;
we have not loved you
with all our heart and soul,
we have not loved you
with all our mind and strength;
we have not even loved our
neighbor as ourselves.

Purge us from selfishness,
the fear of man,
and the love of praise.

In your mercy,
deepen our sorrow
for the wrong we have done
and for the good
we have left undone,
so that we may hate our sin
with a holy hatred.

But, please Father,
do not leave us in sorrow.

With you, O Lord,
there is forgiveness.
In your mercy,
restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love you with a holy
love.

Amen.

Almighty God,
who does freely pardon
all who repent and turn to Him,
now fulfill in every contrite heart
the promise of redeeming grace;
forgiving all our sins,
and cleansing us from
an evil conscience;
through the perfect sacrifice of
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

DEUTERONOMY 31:1-8

31 Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. 2 He said to them, "Today I am 120 years old. I am no longer able to get about, and the Lord has said to me, 'You will not cross the Jordan.' 3 As for the Lord your God, he is about to cross over before you; he will destroy these nations before you, and you will dispossess them. As for Joshua, he is about to cross before you just as the Lord has said. 4 The Lord will do to them just what he did to Sihon and Og, the Amorite kings, and to their land, which he destroyed. 5 The Lord will deliver them over to you, and you will do to them according to the whole commandment I have given you. 6 Be strong and courageous! Do not fear or tremble before them, for the Lord your God is the one who is going with you. He will not fail you or abandon you!" 7 Then Moses called out to Joshua in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you will accompany these people to the land that the Lord promised to give their ancestors, and you will enable them to inherit it. 8 The Lord is indeed going before you—he will be with you; he will not fail you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged!"

JOSHUA 1-2, 24

1 After Moses the Lord's servant died, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Get ready! Cross the Jordan River. Lead these people into the land that I am ready to hand over to them. 3 I am handing over to you every place you set foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert in the south to Lebanon in the north. It will extend all the way to the great River Euphrates in the east (including all Syria) and all the way to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to resist you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not abandon you or leave you alone. 6 Be strong and brave! You must lead these people in the conquest of this land that I solemnly promised their ancestors I would hand over to them. 7 Make sure you are very strong and brave! Carefully obey all the law my servant Moses charged you to keep. Do not swerve from it to the right or to the left, so that you may be successful in all you do. 8 This law scroll must not leave your

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

lips. You must memorize it day and night so you can carefully obey all that is written in it. Then you will prosper and be successful. 9 I repeat, be strong and brave! Don't be afraid and don't panic, for I, the Lord your God, am with you in all you do."

...

2 Joshua son of Nun sent two spies out from Shittim secretly and instructed them: "Find out what you can about the land, especially Jericho." They stopped at the house of a prostitute named Rahab and spent the night there. 2 The king of Jericho received this report: "Note well! Israelite men have come here tonight to spy on the land." 3 So the king of Jericho sent this order to Rahab: "Turn over the men who came to you—the ones who came to your house—for they have come to spy on the whole land!" 4 But the woman hid the two men and replied, "Yes, these men were clients of mine, but I didn't know where they came from. 5 When it was time to shut the city gate for the night, the men left. I don't know where they were heading. Chase after them quickly, for you have time to catch them!" 6 (Now she had taken them up to the roof and had hidden them in the stalks of flax she had spread out on the roof.) 7 Meanwhile, the king's men tried to find them on the road to the Jordan River near the fords. The city gate was shut as soon as they set out in pursuit of them.

8 Now before the spies went to sleep, Rahab went up to the roof. 9 She said to the men, "I know the Lord is handing this land over to you. We are absolutely terrified of you, and all who live in the land are cringing before you. 10 For we heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you left Egypt and how you annihilated the two Amorite kings, Sihon and Og, on the other side of the Jordan. 11 When we heard the news we lost our courage and no one could even breathe for fear of you. For the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below! 12 So now, promise me this with an oath sworn in the Lord's name. Because I have shown allegiance to you, show allegiance to my family. Give me a solemn pledge 13 that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and will rescue us from death." 14 The men said to her, "If you die, may we die too! If you do not report what we've been up to, then we will show unswerving allegiance to you when the Lord hands the land

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

—

EVENING PRAYER

Be present,
O merciful God,
and protect us through the hours of
the night,

so that we who are wearied
by the changes
and chances of this life
may rest

in your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

over to us.”

15 Then Rahab let them down by a rope through the window.
(Her house was built as part of the city wall; she lived in the wall.)

...

24 Joshua assembled all the Israelite tribes at Shechem. He summoned Israel's elders, rulers, judges, and leaders, and they appeared before God. 2 Joshua told all the people, "This is what the Lord God of Israel has said: 'In the distant past your ancestors lived beyond the Euphrates River, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor. They worshiped other gods, 3 but I took your father Abraham from beyond the Euphrates and brought him into the entire land of Canaan. I made his descendants numerous; I gave him Isaac, 4 and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I assigned Mount Seir, while Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. 5 I sent Moses and Aaron, and I struck Egypt down when I intervened in their land. Then I brought you out. 6 When I brought your fathers out of Egypt, you arrived at the sea. The Egyptians chased your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 Your fathers cried out for help to the Lord; he made the area between you and the Egyptians dark, and then he drowned them in the sea. You witnessed with your very own eyes what I did in Egypt. You lived in the wilderness for a long time. 8 Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought with you, but I handed them over to you; you conquered their land, and I destroyed them from before you. ...

14 "Now obey the Lord and worship him with integrity and loyalty. Put aside the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt, and worship the Lord. 15 If you have no desire to worship the Lord, then choose today whom you will worship, whether it be the gods whom your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. But I and my family will worship the Lord."

16 The people responded, "Far be it from us to abandon the Lord so we can worship other gods! 17 For the Lord our God took us and our fathers out of slavery in the land of Egypt and performed these awesome miracles before our very eyes. He continually protected us as we traveled and when we passed

LISTEN

Do It Again

-Elevation Worship

—

You Make Me Brave

-Amanda Cook

—

El Shaddai / You Are My Hiding

Place

-Jesus Image

PONDER

Rehab And The Spies

-Frederick Richard Pickersgill, 1865

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-viewimage.pl?SID=20240517182872243&code=act&RC=57023&Row=&code=act&return=act>

through nations. 18 The Lord drove out from before us all the nations, including the Amorites who lived in the land. So we too will worship the Lord, for he is our God!"

...

29 After all this Joshua son of Nun, the Lord's servant, died at the age of 110. 30 They buried him in his allotted territory in Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

31 Israel worshiped the Lord throughout Joshua's lifetime and as long as the elderly men who outlived him remained alive. These men had experienced firsthand everything the Lord had done for Israel.

32 The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the part of the field that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for 100 pieces of money. So it became the inheritance of the tribe of Joseph.

JAMES 2:14-26

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can this kind of faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm and eat well," but you do not give them what the body needs, what good is it? 17 So also faith, if it does not have works, is dead being by itself. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith without works and I will show you faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; well and good. Even the demons believe that—and tremble with fear.

20 But would you like evidence, you empty fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that his faith was working together with his works and his faith was perfected by works. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Now Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And similarly, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Deborah & Jaed

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MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,
you stretched out your arms of love
on the hard wood of the Cross
that everyone might come
within the reach
of your saving embrace:

So clothe us in your Spirit
that we,
reaching forth our hands in love,
may bring those
who do not know you
to the knowledge and love of you;
for the honor
of your Name.

Amen.

Deborah & Jael

PSALM 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I fear no one.

The Lord protects my life.

I am afraid of no one.

2 When evil men attack me

to devour my flesh,

when my adversaries and enemies attack me,
they stumble and fall.

3 Even when an army is deployed against me,

I do not fear.

Even when war is imminent,

I remain confident.

4 I have asked the Lord for one thing—

this is what I desire!

I want to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life,
so I can gaze at the splendor of the Lord
and contemplate in his temple.

5 He will surely give me shelter in the day of danger;
he will hide me in his home.

He will place me on an inaccessible rocky summit.

...

14 Rely on the Lord!

Be strong and confident!

Rely on the Lord!

JUDGES 2-5

2 6 When Joshua dismissed the people, the Israelites went to their allotted portions of territory, intending to take possession of the land. 7 The people worshiped the Lord throughout Joshua's lifetime and as long as the elderly men who outlived him remained alive. These men had witnessed all the great things the Lord had done for Israel. ... 10 That entire generation passed away; a new generation grew up that had not personally experienced the Lord's presence or seen what he had done for Israel.

CONFESSION

Father in heaven,
we thank you for the freedom
you have given us
through the life, death
and resurrection of your Son.

But we confess today that we often
live like slaves.

Instead of
living like you delight in us,
we avoid you in shame and guilt.

Instead of
receiving your favor as a gift,
we try to earn it with our efforts.

Instead of
accepting your freedom,
we prefer our chains.

Instead of
pursuing your purposes, we cling
to our short-sighted agendas.

Forgive us. Embrace us.
Cleanse us. Heal us.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips
tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free
from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future
in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more
in your likeness and image,

through Jesus Christ,
the light of the world.

Amen.

11 The Israelites did evil before the Lord by worshiping the Baals. 12 They abandoned the Lord God of their ancestors who brought them out of the land of Egypt. They followed other gods—the gods of the nations who lived around them. They worshiped them and made the Lord angry. 13 They abandoned the Lord and worshiped Baal and the Ashtoreths.

14 The Lord was furious with Israel and handed them over to robbers who plundered them. He turned them over to their enemies who lived around them. They could no longer withstand their enemies' attacks. ... 18 When the Lord raised up leaders for them, the Lord was with each leader and delivered the people from their enemies while the leader remained alive. The Lord felt sorry for them when they cried out in agony because of what their harsh oppressors did to them. 19 When a leader died, the next generation would again act more wickedly than the previous one. They would follow after other gods, worshiping them and bowing down to them. They did not give up their practices or their stubborn ways.

...

4 The Israelites again did evil in the Lord's sight after Ehud's death. 2 The Lord turned them over to King Jabin of Canaan, who ruled in Hazor. The general of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim. 3 The Israelites cried out for help to the Lord, because Sisera had 900 chariots with iron-rimmed wheels, and he cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years.

4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. 5 She would sit under the Date Palm Tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraimite hill country. The Israelites would come up to her to have their disputes settled.

6 She summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali. She said to him, "Is it not true that the Lord God of Israel is commanding you? Go, march to Mount Tabor! Take with you 10,000 men from Naphtali and Zebulun. 7 I will bring Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to you at the Kishon River, along with his chariots and huge army. I will hand him over to you." 8 Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go. But if you do not go with me, I will not go." 9 She said, "I will indeed go with you. But you will not gain fame on the expedition you

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

are undertaking, for the Lord will turn Sisera over to a woman.”

...

14 Deborah said to Barak, “Spring into action, for this is the day the Lord is handing Sisera over to you! Has the Lord not taken the lead?” So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. 15 The Lord routed Sisera, all his chariotry, and all his army with the edge of the sword.

...

17 Now Sisera ran away on foot to the tent of Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite, for King Jabin of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite had made a peace treaty. 18 Jael came out to welcome Sisera. She said to him, “Stop and rest, my lord. Stop and rest with me. Don’t be afraid.” So Sisera stopped to rest in her tent, and she put a blanket over him. 19 He said to her, “Give me a little water to drink, because I’m thirsty.” She opened a goatskin container of milk and gave him some milk to drink. Then she covered him up again. 20 He said to her, “Stand watch at the entrance to the tent. If anyone comes along and asks you, ‘Is there a man here?’ say, ‘No.’” 21 Then Jael wife of Heber took a tent peg in one hand and a hammer in the other. She crept up on him, drove the tent peg through his temple into the ground while he was asleep from exhaustion, and he died. 22 Now Barak was chasing Sisera. Jael went out to welcome him. She said to him, “Come here and I will show you the man you are searching for.” He went with her into the tent, and there he saw Sisera sprawled out dead with the tent peg through his temple.

23 That day God humiliated King Jabin of Canaan before the Israelites. 24 Israel’s power continued to overwhelm King Jabin of Canaan until they did away with him.

...**5** On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this victory song:

...

31 And the land had rest for forty years.

HEBREWS 11

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see. 2 For by it the people of old received God’s commendation. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were set in order at God’s command, so that the visible has its origin in the invisible. 4 By faith Abel offered God a greater

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Be our light
in the darkness, O Lord,

and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils
and dangers of this night;

for the love of your only Son,
our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

sacrifice than Cain, and through his faith he was commended as righteous, because God commended him for his offerings. And through his faith he still speaks, though he is dead. 5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he did not see death, and he was not to be found because God took him up. For before his removal he had been commended as having pleased God.

6 Now without faith it is impossible to please him, for the one who approaches God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. 7 By faith Noah, when he was warned about things not yet seen, with reverent regard constructed an ark for the deliverance of his family. Through faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place he would later receive as an inheritance, and he went out without understanding where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as a foreigner in the promised land as though it were a foreign country, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, who were fellow heirs of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with firm foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith, even though Sarah herself was barren and he was too old, he received the ability to procreate, because he regarded the one who had given the promise to be trustworthy. 12 So in fact children were fathered by one man—and this one as good as dead—like the number of stars in the sky and like the innumerable grains of sand on the seashore.

13 These all died in faith without receiving the things promised, but they saw them in the distance and welcomed them and acknowledged that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth. 14 For those who speak in such a way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 In fact, if they had been thinking of the land that they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they aspire to a better land, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He had received the promises, yet he was ready to offer up his only son. 18 God had told him, "Through Isaac descendants will carry on your name," 19 and he reasoned that God could even

LISTEN

This Is Our God

-One Church

Praise (Hebrew)

-Elevation Worship & Shilo Ben Hod

Battle Belongs

-Phil Wickham

PONDER

Rosh Chodesh Fires

-Tatyana Z Cohen

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/1507041294/rosh-chodesh-fires-giclee-art-print-from>

Deborah Praises Jael

-Gustave Doré, 1865

<https://www.artbible.info/art/large/213.html>

raise him from the dead, and in a sense he received him back from there. 20 By faith also Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning the future. 21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshiped as he leaned on his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, mentioned the exodus of the sons of Israel and gave instructions about his burial.

23 By faith, when Moses was born, his parents hid him for three months, because they saw the child was beautiful and they were not afraid of the king's edict. 24 By faith, when he grew up, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be ill-treated with the people of God than to enjoy sin's fleeting pleasure. 26 He regarded abuse suffered for Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for his eyes were fixed on the reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt without fearing the king's anger, for he persevered as though he could see the one who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the one who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. 29 By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if on dry ground, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were swallowed up. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after the people marched around them for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute escaped the destruction of the disobedient, because she welcomed the spies in peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets. 33 Through faith they conquered kingdoms, administered justice, gained what was promised, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength in weakness, became mighty in battle, put foreign armies to flight, 35 and women received back their dead raised to life. But others were tortured, not accepting release, to obtain resurrection to a better life. 36 And others experienced mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, sawed apart, murdered with the sword; they went about in sheepskins and goatskins; they were destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (the world was not worthy of them); they wandered in deserts and mountains and caves and openings in the earth. 39 And these all were commended for their faith, yet they did not receive what was promised. 40 For God had provided something better for us, so that they would be made perfect together with us.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Reflect

What stood out to you from the reading this week?

Describe any thoughts or feelings you had while reading, praying, listening, or looking at art this week.

What did you noticed about God, yourself, and the world?

What are you curious about? What questions, ideas, or texts would you like to explore more?

Respond

What would it look like for you to respond? Remember, response is more than 'application.' It can be almost anything including worship, belief, confession, emotion, and action.



Priests & Kings



Ruth & Boaz

READ
Psalm 94
Ruth 1-4
Ephesians 2-3

LISTEN
Adoption Song
-Brandon Lake

PONDER
Leavetaking
- Anne Porter



Hannah & Elkanah

READ
Psalm 31
1 Samuel 1-2,
1 Samuel 8:1-11
Hebrews 4:12-16

LISTEN
Cantate Domino
-Karl Jenkins

PONDER
A Better Resurrection
-Christina Rossetti
Behold My Miracle
- Fred J Carter



David & a Kingdom

READ
Psalm 51
1 Samuel 16
2 Samuel 7
Isaiah 9:6-7
1 Peter 1-2

LISTEN
Miserere Mei, Deus
-Tenebrae Chor

PONDER
Unitl Shiloh Comes
- Grace Carol Bomer



Solomon & the Temple

READ
Psalm 16
1 Chronicles 28
2 Chronicles 6-7
Acts 2

LISTEN
Kingdom Of God
-Brooke Ligertwood

PONDER
Tasting The Ineffable
- Solomon Enos

Ruth & Boaz

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MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall show forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, the King eternal,
whose light divides
the day from the night
and turns the shadow of death
into the morning:

Drive far from us all wrong desires,
incline our hearts to keep your law,
and guide our feet
into the way of peace;

that, having done your will
with cheerfulness during the day,
we may, when night comes,
rejoice to give you thanks;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Ruth & Boaz

PSALM 94

O Lord, the God who avenges!
O God who avenges, reveal your splendor.

2 Rise up, O judge of the earth.

Pay back the proud.

3 O Lord, how long will the wicked,
how long will the wicked celebrate?

4 They spew out threats and speak defiantly;
all the evildoers boast.

5 O Lord, they crush your people;
they oppress the nation that belongs to you.

6 They kill the widow and the resident foreigner,
and they murder the fatherless.

7 Then they say, "The Lord does not see this;
the God of Jacob does not take notice of it."

8 Take notice of this, you ignorant people.
You fools, when will you ever understand?

9 Does the one who makes the human ear not hear?
Does the one who forms the human eye not see?

10 Does the one who disciplines the nations not punish?
He is the one who imparts knowledge to human beings!

...

17 If the Lord had not helped me,
I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death.

18 If I say, "My foot is slipping,"
your loyal love, O Lord, supports me.

19 When worries threaten to overwhelm me,
your soothing touch makes me happy.

RUTH 1-4

1 During the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land of Judah. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah went to live as a resident foreigner in the region of Moab, along with his wife and two sons. ... 3 Sometime later Naomi's husband Elimelech died, so she and her two sons were left alone. 4 Both her sons married Moabite women. (One was named Orpah and the other

CONFESSION

Most merciful God,
we confess
that we have sinned against you
in thought,
word,
and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves.

We are truly sorry
and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us
and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

—

Grant your faithful people,
merciful Lord,
pardon and peace;

that we may be cleansed
from all our sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Ruth.) And they continued to live there about ten years. 5 Then Naomi's two sons, Mahlon and Kilion, also died. So the woman was left all alone—bereaved of her two children as well as her husband!

...

7 Now as she and her two daughters-in-law began to leave the place where she had been living to return to the land of Judah, 8 Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Listen to me! Each of you should return to your mother's home. May the Lord show you the same kind of devotion that you have shown to your deceased husbands and to me. 9 May the Lord enable each of you to find security in the home of a new husband." Then she kissed them goodbye, and they wept loudly.

...

14 Again they wept loudly. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung tightly to her. 15 So Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her god. Follow your sister-in-law back home!" 16 But Ruth replied,

"Stop urging me to abandon you!

For wherever you go, I will go.

Wherever you live, I will live.

Your people will become my people,

and your God will become my God.

17 Wherever you die, I will die—and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I do not keep my promise! Only death will be able to separate me from you!"

2 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side of the family named Boaz. He was a wealthy, prominent man from the clan of Elimelech.

...

8 So Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my dear! Do not leave to gather grain in another field. You need not go beyond the limits of this field. You may go along beside my female workers. 9 Take note of the field where the men are harvesting and follow behind with the female workers. I will tell the men to leave you alone. When you are thirsty, you may go to the water jars and drink some of the water the servants draw."

10 Ruth knelt before him with her forehead to the ground and said to him, "Why are you so kind and so attentive to me, even though I am a foreigner?" 11 Boaz replied to her, "I have been given a full report of all that you have done for your mother-in-

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is
darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

law following the death of your husband—how you left your father and your mother, as well as your homeland, and came to live among people you did not know previously. 12 May the Lord reward your efforts! May your acts of kindness be repaid fully by the Lord God of Israel, from whom you have sought protection.”

...

19 Her mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you gather grain today? Where did you work? May the one who took notice of you be rewarded!” So Ruth told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked. She said, “The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.” 20 Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be rewarded by the Lord because he has shown loyalty to the living on behalf of the dead!”

...

3 At that time, Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, “My daughter, I must find a home for you so you will be secure. 2 Now Boaz, with whose female servants you worked, is our close relative. Look, tonight he is winnowing barley at the threshing floor. 3 So bathe yourself, rub on some perfumed oil, and get dressed up. Then go down to the threshing floor. But don’t let the man know you’re there until he finishes his meal.

...

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law had instructed her to do. 7 When Boaz had finished his meal and was feeling satisfied, he lay down to sleep at the far end of the grain heap. Then Ruth crept up quietly, uncovered his legs, and lay down beside him. 8 In the middle of the night he was startled and turned over. Now he saw a woman lying beside him! 9 He said, “Who are you?” She replied, “I am Ruth, your servant. Marry your servant, for you are a guardian of the family interests.” 10 He said, “May you be rewarded by the Lord, my dear! This act of devotion is greater than what you did before. For you have not sought to marry one of the young men, whether rich or poor. 11 Now, my dear, don’t worry! I intend to do for you everything you propose, for everyone in the village knows that you are a worthy woman.

...

When Ruth returned to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did things turn out for you, my daughter?” Ruth told her about all the man had done for her. 17 She said, “He gave me these sixty pounds of barley, for he said to me, ‘Do not go to your

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work,
or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

mother-in-law empty-handed.” 18 Then Naomi said, “Stay put, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out. For the man will not rest until he has taken care of the matter today.”

4 Now Boaz went up to the village gate and sat there.

... 9 Then Boaz said to the leaders and all the people, “You are witnesses today that I have acquired from Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. 10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, as my wife to raise up a descendant who will inherit his property so the name of the deceased might not disappear from among his relatives and from his village. You are witnesses today.” 11 All the people who were at the gate and the elders replied, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is entering your home like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built up the house of Israel! May you prosper in Ephrathah and become famous in Bethlehem. 12 May your family become like the family of Perez—whom Tamar bore to Judah—through the descendants the Lord gives you by this young woman.”

13 So Boaz married Ruth and slept with her. The Lord enabled her to conceive and she gave birth to a son. 14 The village women said to Naomi, “May the Lord be praised because he has not left you without a guardian today! May he become famous in Israel! 15 He will encourage you and provide for you when you are old, for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, has given him birth. She is better to you than seven sons!” 16 Naomi took the child and placed him on her lap; she became his caregiver. 17 The neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. Now he became the father of Jesse—David’s father.

EPHESIANS 2-3

2 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, 5 even though we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved!— 6 and he raised us up together with him and seated us together with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 to demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the

LISTEN

Kyrie Elaison

-Juliano Ravanello

God's Not Done With You

Tauren Wells

Adoption Song

-Brandon Lake

PONDER

Leavetaking

-Anne Porter, 2006

<https://artandtheology.org/2018/11/16/leavetaking-by-anne-porter/>

*Nearing the start
of that mysterious last season
Which brings us to the close
of the other four,
I'm somewhat afraid
and don't know how to prepare
So I will praise you.*

...

*And I praise you that from vacant lots
From only broken glass and candy
wrappers
You raise up the blue chicory flowers.*

*I thank you for that secret praise
Which burns in every creature,
And I ask you to bring us to life
Out of every sort of death*

And teach us mercy.

—

Ruth and Naomi

-Chana Helen, 2023

<https://www.chanahelen.com/love-and-devotion-a-righteous-convert/>

gift of God; 9 it is not from works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are his creative work, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we can do them.

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh—who are called “uncircumcision” by the so-called “circumcision” that is performed on the body by human hands— 12 that you were at that time without the Messiah, alienated from the citizenship of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who used to be far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, the one who made both groups into one and who destroyed the middle wall of partition, the hostility, 15 when he nullified in his flesh the law of commandments in decrees. He did this to create in himself one new man out of two, thus making peace, 16 and to reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by which the hostility has been killed.

17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, 18 so that through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer foreigners and noncitizens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household, 20 because you have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

3 ... 14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. 16 I pray that according to the wealth of his glory he will grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, 17 that Christ will dwell in your hearts through faith, so that, because you have been rooted and grounded in love, 18 you will be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and thus to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you will be filled up to all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, 21 to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Harrah & Harrah

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MORNING PRAYER

*O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.*

*O God,
make speed to save us.*

*O Lord,
make haste to help us.*

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit*

*As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.*

Amen.

COLLECT

*O God our King,
by the resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
on the first day of the week,
you conquered sin,
put death to flight,
and gave us the hope
of everlasting life:*

*Redeem all our days by this victory;
forgive our sins, banish our fears,
make us bold to praise you
and to do your will;
and steel us to wait for the
consummation of your kingdom
on the last great Day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Hannah & Elkanah

PSALM 31

In you, O Lord, I have taken shelter.

Never let me be humiliated.

Vindicate me by rescuing me.

2 Listen to me.

Quickly deliver me.

Be my protector and refuge,
a stronghold where I can be safe.

...

7 I will be happy and rejoice in your faithfulness,
because you notice my pain
and you are aware of how distressed I am.

8 You do not deliver me over to the power of the enemy;
you enable me to stand in a wide open place.

9 Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in distress!
My eyes grow dim from suffering.
I have lost my strength.

10 For my life nears its end in pain;
my years draw to a close as I groan.

My strength fails me because of my sin,
and my bones become brittle.

11 Because of all my enemies, people disdain me;
my neighbors are appalled by my suffering—
those who know me are horrified by my condition;
those who see me in the street run away from me.

12 I am forgotten, like a dead man no one thinks about;
I am regarded as worthless, like a broken jar.

...

14 But I trust in you, O Lord!
I declare, "You are my God!"

1 SAMUEL 1-2

1 There was a man from Ramathaim Zophim, from the hill country of Ephraim. His name was Elkanah. He was the son of

CONFESSION

Lord, though you should guide us,
we inform ourselves;
though you should rule us, we
control ourselves;
though you should fulfill us, we
console ourselves.

We think your truth too high,
your will too hard,
your power too remote,
your love too free.
But they are not!
And without them,
we are of all people most miserable.

Now heal our confused minds
with your word,
heal our divided wills
with your law,
heal our troubled consciences
with your love,
heal our anxious hearts
with your presence,
all for the sake of your Son,
who loved us
and gave himself for us.

Amen.

—

Almighty Father, who for your great
love of your creation
did give your dearly beloved Son
to die for us;

Grant that through his Cross
our sins may be put away, and
remembered no more against us,
and that, cleansed by his Blood,
and mindful of his sufferings,
we may take up our cross daily,
and follow him in newness of life,
until we come to his
everlasting kingdom;

through the Name of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; the name of the first was Hannah and the name of the second was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 This man would go up from his city year after year to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of Heaven's Armies at Shiloh. (It was there that the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, served as the Lord's priests.) 4 The day came, and Elkanah sacrificed.

(Now he used to give meat portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion because he loved Hannah, although the Lord had not enabled her to have children. 6 Her rival used to aggravate her to the point of exasperation, just to irritate her, since the Lord had not enabled her to have children. 7 This is how it would go year after year. As often as she went up to the Lord's house, Peninnah would offend her in that way.) So she cried and refused to eat. 8 Then her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why are you crying and why won't you eat? Why are you so upset? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" 9 So Hannah got up after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh.

At the time Eli the priest was sitting in his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's sanctuary. 10 As for Hannah, she was very distressed. She prayed to the Lord and was, in fact, weeping. 11 She made a vow saying, "O Lord of Heaven's Armies, if you would truly look on the suffering of your servant, and would keep me in mind and not neglect your servant, and give your servant a male child, then I will dedicate him to the Lord all the days of his life. His hair will never be cut."

12 It turned out that she did a great deal of praying before the Lord. Meanwhile Eli was watching her mouth. 13 As for Hannah, she was speaking in her mind. Only her lips were moving; her voice could not be heard. So Eli thought she was a drunkard. 14 Then he said to her, "How much longer do you intend to get drunk? Put away your wine!" 15 But Hannah replied, "Not so, my lord! I am a woman under a great deal of stress. I haven't drunk wine or beer. But I have poured out my soul before the Lord. 16 Don't consider your servant a wicked woman. It's just that, to this point, I have spoken from my deep pain and anguish."

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

17 Eli replied, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant the request that you have asked of him." 18 She said, "May I, your servant, find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and got something to eat. Her face no longer looked sad. 19 They got up early the next morning. Then they worshiped the Lord and returned to their home at Ramathaim. Elkanah was intimate with his wife Hannah, and the Lord called her to mind. 20 Then Hannah became pregnant.

In the course of time she gave birth to a son. And she named him Samuel, thinking, "I asked the Lord for him." ... So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him. 24 Then she took him up with her as soon as she had weaned him, along with three bulls, an ephah of flour, and a container of wine. She came to the Lord's house at Shiloh, and the boy was with them. 25 They slaughtered the bull, then brought the boy to Eli. 26 She said, "My lord. Just as surely as you are alive, my lord, I am the woman who previously stood here with you in order to pray to the Lord. 27 For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me the request that I asked of him. 28 So I also dedicate him to the Lord. For all the days of his life he is dedicated to the Lord." Then he bowed down there in worship to the Lord.

2 Hannah prayed,

"My heart has rejoiced in the Lord;
my horn has been raised high because of the Lord.

I have loudly denounced my enemies.
Indeed I rejoice in your deliverance.

2 No one is holy like the Lord!
There is no one other than you!

There is no rock like our God!

3 Don't keep speaking so arrogantly.
Proud talk should not come out of your mouth,
for the Lord is a God who knows;
he evaluates what people do.

4 The bows of warriors are shattered,
but those who stumbled have taken on strength.

5 The well fed hire themselves out to earn food,
but the hungry no longer lack.
Even the barren woman has given birth to seven,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

but the one with many children has declined.

6 The Lord both kills and gives life;

he brings down to the grave and raises up.

7 The Lord impoverishes and makes wealthy;
he humbles and he exalts.

8 He lifts the weak from the dust;
he raises the poor from the ash heap
to seat them with princes—

he bestows on them an honored position.

The foundations of the earth belong to the Lord—
he placed the world on them.

9 He watches over his holy ones,
but the wicked are made speechless in the darkness,
for it is not by one's own strength that one prevails.

10 The Lord shatters his adversaries;
he thunders against them from the heavens.

The Lord executes judgment to the ends of the earth.

He will strengthen his king
and exalt the power of his anointed one."

...

EVENING PRAYER

O God,
the life of all who live,
the light of the faithful,
the strength of those who labor,
and the repose of the dead:

We thank you for the blessings
of the day that is past,
and humbly ask for your protection
through the coming night.

Bring us in safety
to the morning hours;
through him who died
and rose again for us,
your Son our Savior
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

18 Now Samuel was ministering with the favor of the Lord. The boy was dressed in a linen ephod. 19 His mother used to make him a small robe and bring it to him from time to time when she would go up with her husband to make the annual sacrifice. 20 Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife saying, "May the Lord establish descendants for you from this woman in place of the one that she dedicated to the Lord." Then they would go to their home. 21 And indeed the Lord attended to Hannah. She got pregnant and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. But the boy Samuel grew up before the Lord.

22 Eli was very old. And he would hear about everything that his sons used to do to all the people of Israel and how they used to go to bed with the women who were stationed at the entrance to the tent of meeting....26 However, the boy Samuel was growing up and finding favor both with the Lord and with people.

1 SAMUEL 8

8 In his old age Samuel appointed his sons as judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of

LISTEN

Cantate Domino

-Karl Jenkins & Chór SÚM

My God Can

-Katy Nichole, Naomi Raine

Great High Priest

Ian Chew & Jon Cho

PONDER

A Better Resurrection

-Christina Rossetti, 1862

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44991/a-better-resurrection>

*I have no wit, no words, no tears;
My heart within me like a stone
Is numbed too much for hopes or fears;
Look right, look left, I dwell alone;
I lift mine eyes, but dimmed with grief
No everlasting hills I see;
My life is in the falling leaf:
O Jesus, quicken me.*

...

*My life is like a broken bowl,
A broken bowl that cannot hold
One drop of water for my soul
Or cordial in the searching cold;
Cast in the fire the perished thing;
Melt and remould it, till it be
A royal cup for Him, my King:
O Jesus, drink of me.*

Behold My Miracle

-Fred J Carter, 1980

<https://artandtheology.org/2022/12/09/advent-day-13-magnificat/>

his second son was Abijah. They were judges in Beer Sheba. 3 But his sons did not follow his ways. Instead, they made money dishonestly, accepted bribes, and perverted justice.

4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and approached Samuel at Ramah. 5 They said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons don't follow your ways. So now appoint over us a king to lead us, just like all the other nations have."

6 But this request displeased Samuel, for they said, "Give us a king to lead us." So Samuel prayed to the Lord. 7 The Lord said to Samuel, "Do everything the people request of you. For it is not you that they have rejected, but it is me that they have rejected as their king. 8 Just as they have done from the day that I brought them up from Egypt until this very day, they have rejected me and have served other gods. This is what they are also doing to you. 9 So now do as they say. But you must warn them and make them aware of the policies of the king who will rule over them."

...

19 But the people refused to heed Samuel's warning. Instead they said, "No! There will be a king over us! 20 We will be like all the other nations. Our king will judge us and lead us and fight our battles."

HEBREWS 4:12-16

4 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the point of dividing soul from spirit, and joints from marrow; it is able to judge the desires and thoughts of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from God, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

14 Therefore since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace whenever we need help.

Daily Reflection

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Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

David & a Kingdom

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MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
you have made of one blood
all the peoples of the earth,
and sent your blessed Son
to preach peace to those
who are far off
and to those who are near:

Grant that people everywhere
may seek after you and find you;
bring the nations into your fold;

pour out your Spirit upon all flesh;
and hasten the coming of your
kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

David & a Kingdom

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your loyal love.

Because of your great compassion,
wipe away my rebellious acts.

2 Wash away my wrongdoing.

Cleanse me of my sin.

3 For I am aware of my rebellious acts;

I am forever conscious of my sin.

4 Against you—you above all—I have sinned;

I have done what is evil in your sight.

So you are just when you confront me;

you are right when you condemn me

...

7 Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be pure;
wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Grant me the ultimate joy of being forgiven.

May the bones you crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins.

Wipe away all my guilt.

10 Create for me a pure heart, O God.

Renew a resolute spirit within me

...

16 Certainly you do not want a sacrifice, or else I would offer it;
you do not desire a burnt sacrifice.

17 The sacrifice God desires is a humble spirit—

O God, a humble and repentant heart you will not reject.

1 SAMUEL 16

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long do you intend to mourn for Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with olive oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have selected a king for myself from among his sons."

2 Samuel replied, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me!" But the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you should do. You will

CONFESSION

O Father,
we are gathered before you,
the Maker of Heaven and Earth,
whose chosen dwelling place
is with the broken and contrite,
to confess
that we have sinned in thought
and word and deed;
we have not loved you
with all our heart and soul,
we have not loved you
with all our mind and strength;
we have not even loved our
neighbor as ourselves.

Purge us from selfishness,
the fear of man,
and the love of praise.

In your mercy,
deepen our sorrow
for the wrong we have done
and for the good
we have left undone,
so that we may hate our sin
with a holy hatred.

But, please Father,
do not leave us in sorrow.

With you, O Lord,
there is forgiveness.
In your mercy,
restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love you with a holy
love.

Amen.

Almighty God,
who does freely pardon
all who repent and turn to Him,
now fulfill in every contrite heart
the promise of redeeming grace;
forgiving all our sins,
and cleansing us from
an evil conscience;
through the perfect sacrifice of
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

anoint for me the one I point out to you.”

4 Samuel did what the Lord told him. When he arrived in Bethlehem, the elders of the city were afraid to meet him. They said, “Do you come in peace?” 5 He replied, “Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” So he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they arrived, Samuel noticed Eliab and said to himself, “Surely, here before the Lord stands his chosen king.” 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t be impressed by his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. God does not view things the way people do. People look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel.

But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.”

9 Then Jesse presented Shammah. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” 10 Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” 11 Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Is that all the young men?” Jesse replied, “There is still the youngest one, but he’s taking care of the flock.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we cannot turn our attention to other things until he comes here.”

12 So Jesse had him brought in. Now he was ruddy, with attractive eyes and a handsome appearance. The Lord said, “Go and anoint him. This is the one.” 13 So Samuel took the horn full of olive oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day onward. Then Samuel got up and went to Ramah.

2 SAMUEL 7

... “So now, say this to my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies has said: I took you from the pasture and from your work as a shepherd to make you leader of my people Israel. 9 I was with you wherever you went, and I defeated all your enemies before you. Now I will make you as famous as the great men of the earth. 10 I will establish a place for my people Israel and settle them there; they will live there and not be

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

disturbed anymore. Violent men will not oppress them again, as they did in the beginning 11 and during the time when I appointed judges to lead my people Israel. Instead, I will give you relief from all your enemies. The Lord declares to you that he himself will build a dynastic house for you. 12 When the time comes for you to die, I will raise up your descendant, one of your own sons, to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He will build a house for my name, and I will make his dynasty permanent. 14 I will become his father and he will become my son. When he sins, I will correct him with the rod of men and with wounds inflicted by human beings. 15 But my loyal love will not be removed from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will stand before me permanently; your dynasty will be permanent.” 17 Nathan told David all these words that were revealed to him.

18 King David went in, sat before the Lord, and said, “Who am I, O Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you should have brought me to this point? 19 And you didn’t stop there, O Lord God! You have also spoken about the future of your servant’s family. Is this your usual way of dealing with men, O Sovereign Lord? 20 What more can David say to you? You have given your servant special recognition, O Sovereign Lord! 21 For the sake of your promise and according to your purpose you have done this great thing in order to reveal it to your servant.

22 Therefore you are great, O Sovereign Lord, for there is none like you. There is no God besides you! What we have heard is true. 23 Who is like your people, Israel, a unique nation on the earth? Their God went to claim a nation for himself and to make a name for himself! You did great and awesome acts for your land, before your people whom you delivered for yourself from the Egyptian empire and its gods. 24 You made Israel your very own people for all time. You, O Lord, became their God. 25 So now, O Lord God, make this promise you have made about your servant and his family a permanent reality. Do as you promised, 26 so you may gain lasting fame, as people say, ‘The Lord of Heaven’s Armies is God over Israel!’ The dynasty of your servant David will be established before you, 27 for you, O Lord of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, have told your servant, ‘I will build you a dynastic house.’ That is why your servant has had the courage to pray this prayer to you. 28 Now, O Sovereign Lord, you are the true God. May your words prove to

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

—

EVENING PRAYER

Be present,
O merciful God,
and protect us through the hours of
the night,

so that we who are wearied
by the changes
and chances of this life
may rest
in your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

be true! You have made this good promise to your servant.
29 Now be willing to bless your servant's dynasty so that it may stand permanently before you, for you, O Sovereign Lord, have spoken. By your blessing may your servant's dynasty be blessed from now on into the future!"

ISAIAH 9:6-7

6 For a child has been born to us,
a son has been given to us.
He shoulders responsibility
and is called
Wonderful Adviser,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

7 His dominion will be vast,
and he will bring immeasurable prosperity.
He will rule on David's throne
and over David's kingdom,
establishing it and strengthening it
by promoting justice and fairness,
from this time forward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will accomplish this.

1 PETER 1-2

...3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 that is, into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It is reserved in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are protected through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 This brings you great joy, although you may have to suffer for a short time in various trials. 7 Such trials show the proven character of your faith, which is much more valuable than gold—gold that is tested by fire, even though it is passing away—and will bring praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now but you believe in him, and so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 because you are attaining the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

LISTEN

Miserere mei, Deus (Psalm 51)

- Allegri - Tenebrae Choir

Give Me A Clean Heart

-Adoration N Praiz

Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79)

-Karl Jenkins

Count 'Em

-Brandon Lake

PONDER

Jesse

-Riki Yarbrough, 2018

www.rikியarborough.com/uploads/9/8/7/1/6/98768216/advent-jesse_orig.jpg



Until Shiloh Comes

-Grace Carol Bomer, 1993

<https://gracecarolbomer.com/product/untill-shiloh-comes/>

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who predicted the grace that would come to you searched and investigated carefully. 11 They probed into what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating when he testified beforehand about the sufferings appointed for Christ and his subsequent glory. 12 They were shown that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things now announced to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things angels long to catch a glimpse of.

13 Therefore, get your minds ready for action by being fully sober, and set your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 Like obedient children, do not comply with the evil urges you used to follow in your ignorance, 15 but, like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all of your conduct, 16 for it is written, “You shall be holy, because I am holy.” 17 And if you address as Father the one who impartially judges according to each one’s work, live out the time of your temporary residence here in reverence. 18 You know that from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors you were ransomed—not by perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but by precious blood like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, namely Christ. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was manifested in these last times for your sake. ...

2 So get rid of all evil and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 And yearn like newborn infants for pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up to salvation, 3 if you have experienced the Lord’s kindness.

4 So as you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but chosen and precious in God’s sight, 5 you yourselves, as living stones, are built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood and to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it says in scripture, “Look, I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and whoever believes in him will never be put to shame.” 7 So you who believe see his value, but for those who do not believe, the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, 8 and a stumbling-stone and a rock to trip over. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Solomon & Temple

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Solomon & the Temple

PSALM 16

Protect me, O God, for I have taken shelter in you.

2 I say to the Lord, "You are the Lord,
my only source of well-being."

...

5 Lord, you give me stability and prosperity;
you make my future secure.

6 It is as if I have been given fertile fields
or received a beautiful tract of land.

7 I will praise the Lord who guides me;
yes, during the night I reflect and learn.

8 I constantly trust in the Lord;
because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

...

11 You lead me in the path of life.

I experience absolute joy in your presence;
you always give me sheer delight.

1 CHRONICLES 28

2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I wanted to build a temple where the ark of the Lord's covenant could be placed as a footstool for our God. I have made the preparations for building it. 3 But God said to me, 'You must not build a temple to honor me, for you are a warrior and have spilled blood.' 4 The Lord God of Israel chose me out of my father's entire family to become king over Israel and have a permanent dynasty. Indeed, he chose Judah as leader, and my father's family within Judah, and then he picked me out from among my father's sons and made me king over all Israel. 5 From all the many sons the Lord has given me, he chose Solomon my son to rule on his behalf over Israel. 6 He said to me, 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my temple and my courts, for I have chosen him to become my son and I will become his father. 7 I will establish his kingdom permanently, if he remains committed to obeying my commands and regulations, as you are doing this day.' 8 So now, in the sight of all Israel, the Lord's assembly, and in the

MORNING PRAYER

*O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.*

*O God,
make speed to save us.*

*O Lord,
make haste to help us.*

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit*

*As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.*

Amen.

—

*O God, the King eternal,
whose light divides
the day from the night
and turns the shadow of death
into the morning:*

*Drive far from us all wrong desires,
incline our hearts to keep your law,
and guide our feet
into the way of peace;*

*that, having done your will
with cheerfulness during the day,
we may, when night comes,
rejoice to give you thanks;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

CONFESSION

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we
have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.*

*We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.*

*We are truly sorry
and we humbly repent.*

*For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us
and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.*

Amen.

*Grant your faithful people,
merciful Lord,
pardon and peace;*

*that we may be cleansed
from all our sins,
and serve you
with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.*

Amen.

hearing of our God, I say this: Carefully observe all the commands of the Lord your God, so that you may possess this good land and may leave it as a permanent inheritance for your children after you.

9 "And you, Solomon my son, obey the God of your father and serve him with a submissive attitude and a willing spirit, for the Lord examines all minds and understands every motive of one's thoughts. If you seek him, he will let you find him, but if you abandon him, he will reject you permanently. 10 Realize now that the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as his sanctuary. Be strong and do it!"

...

19 David said, "All this I put in writing as the Lord directed me and gave me insight regarding the details of the blueprints."

20 David said to his son Solomon: "Be strong and brave! Do it! Don't be afraid and don't panic! For the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not leave you or abandon you before all the work for the service of the Lord's temple is finished.

2 CHRONICLES 6-7

Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he lives in thick darkness. 2 O Lord, I have built a lofty temple for you, a place where you can live permanently." 3 Then the king turned around and pronounced a blessing over the whole Israelite assembly as they stood there. 4 He said, "The Lord God of Israel is worthy of praise because he has fulfilled what he promised my father David. 5 He told David, 'Since the day I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I have not chosen a city from all the tribes of Israel to build a temple in which to live. Nor did I choose a man as leader of my people Israel. 6 But now I have chosen Jerusalem as a place to live, and I have chosen David to lead my people Israel.' 7 Now my father David had a strong desire to build a temple to honor the Lord God of Israel. 8 The Lord told my father David, 'It is right for you to have a strong desire to build a temple to honor me. 9 But you will not build the temple; your very own son will build the temple for my honor.' 10 The Lord has kept the promise he made. I have taken my father David's place and have occupied the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised. I have built this temple for the honor of the Lord God of Israel 11 and set up in

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

it a place for the ark containing the covenant the Lord made with the Israelites.”

12 He stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the entire assembly of Israel and spread out his hands. 13 Solomon had made a bronze platform and had placed it in the middle of the enclosure. It was 7½ long, 7½ wide, and 4½ feet high. He stood on it and then got down on his knees in front of the entire assembly of Israel. He spread out his hands toward the sky, 14 and prayed: “O Lord God of Israel, there is no god like you in heaven or on earth! You maintain covenantal loyalty to your servants who obey you with sincerity. 15 You have kept your word to your servant, my father David; this very day you have fulfilled what you promised. 16 Now, O Lord God of Israel, keep the promise you made to your servant, my father David, when you said, ‘You will never fail to have a successor ruling before me on the throne of Israel, provided that your descendants watch their step and obey my law as you have done.’ 17 Now, O Lord God of Israel, may the promise you made to your servant David be realized.

18 “God does not really live with humankind on the earth! Look, if the sky and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this temple I have built! 19 But respond favorably to your servant’s prayer and his request for help, O Lord my God. Answer the desperate prayer your servant is presenting to you. 20 Night and day may you watch over this temple, the place where you promised you would live. May you answer your servant’s prayer for this place. 21 Respond to the requests of your servant and your people Israel for this place. Hear from your heavenly dwelling place and respond favorably and forgive.

...

7 When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the Lord’s splendor filled the temple. 2 The priests were unable to enter the Lord’s temple because the Lord’s splendor filled the Lord’s temple. 3 When all the Israelites saw the fire come down and the Lord’s splendor over the temple, they got on their knees with their faces downward toward the pavement. They worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, “Certainly he is good; certainly his loyal love endures!”

EVENING PRAYER

*O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.*

*O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.*

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit*

*As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.*

Amen.

—
*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,*

*Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us this day our daily bread.

*And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

—
*Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work, or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.*

*Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake.*

Amen.

...
11 After Solomon finished building the Lord's temple and the royal palace and accomplished all his plans for the Lord's temple and his royal palace, 12 the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him: "I have answered your prayer and chosen this place to be my temple where sacrifices are to be made. ... 17 You must serve me as your father David did. Do everything I commanded and obey my rules and regulations. 18 Then I will establish your dynasty, just as I promised your father David, 'You will not fail to have a successor ruling over Israel.'

19 "But if you people ever turn away from me, fail to obey the regulations and rules I instructed you to keep, and decide to serve and worship other gods, 20 then I will remove you from my land I have given you, I will abandon this temple I have consecrated with my presence, and I will make you an object of mockery and ridicule among all the nations. 21 As for this temple, which was once majestic, everyone who passes by it will be shocked and say, 'Why did the Lord do this to this land and this temple?' 22 Others will then answer, 'Because they abandoned the Lord God of their ancestors, who led them out of Egypt. They embraced other gods whom they worshiped and served. That is why he brought all this disaster down on them.'"

ACTS 2

2 Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And tongues spreading out like a fire appeared to them and came to rest on each one of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven residing in Jerusalem. 6 When this sound occurred, a crowd gathered and was in confusion, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Completely baffled, they said, "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that each one of us hears them in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia,

LISTEN

King Of Kings

-Brooke Ligertwood

Heaven Invade

-Kari Jobe

Lion

-Elevation Worship

PONDER

Dedication of Solomon's

Temple

-The Temple Institute

<https://www.templeinstitute.com/product-page/dedication-of-solomon-s-temple-canvas-print>

Tasting The Ineffable

-Solomon Enos

<https://noheagallery.com/product/solomon-enos-tasting-the-ineffable-acrylic-on-wood-panel-12x-12-1200/>

Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own languages about the great deeds God has done!” 12 All were astounded and greatly confused, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others jeered at the speakers, saying, “They are drunk on new wine!”

14 But Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice, and addressed them: “You men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, know this and listen carefully to what I say. 15 In spite of what you think, these men are not drunk, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16 But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel:

17 ‘And in the last days it will be,’ God says, ‘that I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

19 And I will perform wonders in the sky above and miraculous signs on the earth below, blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

20 The sun will be changed to darkness and the moon to blood

before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

21 And then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man clearly attested to you by God with powerful deeds, wonders, and miraculous signs that God performed among you through him, just as you yourselves know— 23 this man, who was handed over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you executed by nailing him to a cross at the hands of Gentiles. 24 But God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held in its power.

...

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.”

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Reflect

What stood out to you from the reading this week?

Describe any thoughts or feelings you had while reading, praying, listening, or looking at art this week.

What did you noticed about God, yourself, and the world?

What are you curious about? What questions, ideas, or texts would you like to explore more?

Respond

What would it look like for you to respond? Remember, response is more than 'application.' It can be almost anything including worship, belief, confession, emotion, and action.



Ezra 1-5



Babylonian Exile

READ

Psalm 79
Exodus 34:6-7
Jeremiah 2, 22-23
2 Chronicles 36

LISTEN

Inn The Bleak Midwinter
- Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason

PONDER

A Leaf By Niggle
- Makoto Fujimura



Restoration Begins

READ

Psalm 74
Jeremiah 29:1-14
Ezra 1
Isaiah 40
Hebrews 1

LISTEN

Cloud Of Witnesses
- Aable

PONDER

Come Ye Disconsolate
- Thomas Moore



Worship Restored

READ

Psalm 42
Ezra 3
Acts 2
Romans 10:1-13

LISTEN

Gratitude/Worthy Of It All
- Maverick City Music

PONDER

Holding The Flame
- Jyoti Sahi, 2005



Rebuild Threatened

READ

Psalm 123
Ezra 4-5
2 Peter 3

LISTEN

This Is Our God
- Phil Wickham

PONDER

Tower Of Mothers
- Käthe Kollwitz, 1938

Babylonian Exile

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MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall show forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, the King eternal,
whose light divides
the day from the night
and turns the shadow of death
into the morning:

Drive far from us all wrong desires,
incline our hearts to keep your law,
and guide our feet
into the way of peace;

that, having done your will
with cheerfulness during the day,
we may, when night comes,
rejoice to give you thanks;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Babylonian Exile

PSALM 79

O God, foreigners have invaded your chosen land;
they have polluted your holy temple
and turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins.

...

4 We have become an object of disdain to our neighbors;
those who live on our borders taunt and insult us.

5 How long will this go on, O Lord?

Will you stay angry forever?

How long will your rage burn like fire?

...

9 Help us, O God, our deliverer!

For the sake of your glorious reputation, rescue us.

Forgive our sins for the sake of your reputation.

...

13 Then we, your people, the sheep of your pasture,
will continually thank you.

We will tell coming generations of your praiseworthy acts.

EXODUS 34

6 "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love and faithfulness,
7 keeping loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and
transgression and sin. But he by no means leaves the guilty
unpunished, responding to the transgression of fathers by
dealing with children and children's children, to the third and
fourth generation."

JEREMIAH 2, 22-23

The Lord's message came to me [Jeremiah], 2 "Go and declare
in the hearing of the people of Jerusalem: 'This is what the Lord
says: "I have fond memories of you, how devoted you were to
me in your early years. I remember how you loved me like a
new bride; you followed me through the wilderness, through a
land that had never been planted. 3 Israel was set apart to the

CONFESSION

Most merciful God,
we confess
that we have sinned against you
in thought,
word,
and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves.

We are truly sorry
and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us
and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

—

Grant your faithful people,
merciful Lord,
pardon and peace;

that we may be cleansed
from all our sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Lord; they were like the firstfruits of a harvest to him. All who tried to devour them were punished; disaster came upon them," says the Lord."

4 Now listen to the Lord's message, you descendants of Jacob, all you family groups from the nation of Israel.

5 This is what the Lord says:

"What fault could your ancestors have possibly found in me that they strayed so far from me?

They paid allegiance to worthless idols,
and so became worthless to me.

6 They did not ask,

'Where is the Lord who delivered us out of Egypt,
who brought us through the wilderness,
through a land of valleys and gorges,
through a land of desert and deep darkness,
through a land in which no one travels,
and where no one lives?'

7 I brought you into a fertile land
so you could enjoy its fruits and its rich bounty.

But when you entered my land, you defiled it;
you made the land I call my own loathsome to me.

8 Your priests did not ask, 'Where is the Lord?'

Those responsible for teaching my law did not really know me.

Your rulers rebelled against me.

Your prophets prophesied in the name of the god Baal.
They all worshiped idols that could not help them.

9 "So, once more I will state my case against you,"
says the Lord.

"I will also state it against your children and grandchildren.

10 Go west across the sea to the coasts of Cyprus and see.
Send someone east to Kedar and have them look carefully.

See if such a thing as this has ever happened:

11 Has a nation ever changed its gods

(even though they are not really gods at all)?

But my people have exchanged me, their glorious God,
for a god that cannot help them at all!

12 Be amazed at this, O heavens.

Be shocked and utterly dumbfounded,"
says the Lord.

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

13 "Do so because my people
have committed a double wrong:
They have rejected me,
the fountain of life-giving water,
and they have dug cisterns for themselves,
cracked cisterns that cannot even hold water.

...

22 The Lord told me, "Go down to the palace of the king of Judah. Give him a message from me there. 2 Say: 'Listen, O king of Judah who follows in David's succession. You, your officials, and your subjects who pass through the gates of this palace must listen to the Lord's message. 3 The Lord says, "Do what is just and right. Deliver those who have been robbed from those who oppress them. Do not exploit or mistreat resident foreigners who live in your land, children who have no fathers, or widows. Do not kill innocent people in this land. 4 If you are careful to obey these commands, then the kings who follow in David's succession and ride in chariots or on horses will continue to come through the gates of this palace, as will their officials and their subjects. 5 But, if you do not obey these commands, I solemnly swear that this palace will become a pile of rubble. I, the Lord, affirm it!"

...

13 "'Sure to be judged
is the king who builds his palace using injustice
and treats people unfairly while adding its upper rooms.
He makes his countrymen work for him for nothing.

He does not pay them for their labor.

14 He says, "I will build myself a large palace
with spacious upper rooms."

He cuts windows in its walls,
panels it with cedar, and paints its rooms red.

15 Does it make you any more of a king
that you outstrip everyone else in building with cedar?

Just think about your father.

He was content that he had food and drink.

He did what was just and right.

So things went well with him.

16 He upheld the cause of the poor and needy.

So things went well for Judah.'

The Lord says,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

—

EVENING PRAYER

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work,
or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

'That is a good example of what it means to know me.
17 But you are always thinking and looking
for ways to increase your wealth by dishonest means.
Your eyes and your heart are set
on killing some innocent person
and committing fraud and oppression.'

...

23 The Lord says, "The leaders of my people are sure to be judged. They were supposed to watch over my people like shepherds watch over their sheep. But they are causing my people to be destroyed and scattered." 2 So the Lord God of Israel has this to say about the leaders who are ruling over his people: "You have caused my people to be dispersed and driven into exile. You have not taken care of them. So I will punish you for the evil that you have done. I, the Lord, affirm it! 3 Then I myself will regather those of my people who are still alive from all the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their homeland. They will greatly increase in number. 4 I will install rulers over them who will care for them. Then they will no longer need to fear or be terrified. None of them will turn up missing. I, the Lord, promise it!

5 "I, the Lord, promise that a new time will certainly come when I will raise up for them a righteous branch, a descendant of David.

He will rule over them with wisdom and understanding
and will do what is just and right in the land.

6 Under his rule Judah will enjoy safety
and Israel will live in security.

This is the name he will go by:

'The Lord has provided us with justice.'

...

9 Here is what the Lord says concerning the false prophets:
My heart and my mind are deeply disturbed.

I tremble all over.

I am like a drunk person,
like a person who has had too much wine,
because of the way the Lord
and his holy word are being mistreated.

10 For the land is full of people unfaithful to him.
They live wicked lives and they misuse their power.
So the land is dried up because it is under his curse.

LISTEN

In The Bleak Midwinter

-Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason

On The Willows

-Wallace Smith

How He Loves

-David Crowder Band

The pastures in the wilderness are withered.

11 Moreover, the Lord says,

“Both the prophets and priests are godless.

I have even found them doing evil in my temple.

12 So the paths they follow will be dark and slippery.

They will stumble and fall headlong.

For I will bring disaster on them.

A day of reckoning is coming for them.”

The Lord affirms it!

PONDER

Music

-Anne Porter, 2006 (poem)

<https://writersalmanac.publicradio.org/index.php?date=2009%2F05%2F01.html>

Va, pensiero

Pittsburg Opera, 2015 (opera)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9BV4t9kvKo&list=PLpJ4_5r9Te8YxG0bNvHEoyesWpvtmTh7l&index=14&pp=gAQBiAQB8AUB

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9BV4t9kvKo&list=PLpJ4_5r9Te8YxG0bNvHEoyesWpvtmTh7l&index=14&pp=gAQBiAQB8AUB



Lamentations

-Margaret Adams Parker, 2001

www.margaretadamparker.com/ShowWork.aspx?Group=Prints&SubGroup=BiblicalWoodcuts&File=16

2 CHRONICLES 36

11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he ruled for eleven years in Jerusalem. 12 He did evil in the sight of the Lord his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, the Lord’s spokesman. 13 He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him vow allegiance in the name of God. He was stubborn and obstinate, and refused to return to the Lord God of Israel. 14 All the leaders of the priests and people became more unfaithful and committed the same horrible sins practiced by the nations. They defiled the Lord’s temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

15 The Lord God of their ancestors continually warned them through his messengers, for he felt compassion for his people and his dwelling place. 16 But they mocked God’s messengers, despised his warnings, and ridiculed his prophets. Finally the Lord got very angry at his people and there was no one who could prevent his judgment. 17 He brought against them the king of the Babylonians, who slaughtered their young men in their temple. He did not spare young men or women, or even the old and aging. God handed everyone over to him. 18 He carried away to Babylon all the items in God’s temple, whether large or small, as well as what was in the treasuries of the Lord’s temple and in the treasuries of the king and his officials. 19 They burned down God’s temple and tore down the wall of Jerusalem. They burned all its fortified buildings and destroyed all its valuable items. 20 He deported to Babylon all who escaped the sword. They served him and his sons until the Persian kingdom rose to power. 21 This took place to fulfill the Lord’s message spoken through Jeremiah and lasted until the land experienced its sabbatical years. All the time of its desolation the land rested in order to fulfill the seventy years.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Restoration Begins

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Restoration Begins

PSALM 74

A well-written song by Asaph.

MORNING PRAYER

*O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.*

*O God,
make speed to save us.*

*O Lord,
make haste to help us.*

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit*

*As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.*

Amen.

COLLECT

*O God our King,
by the resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
on the first day of the week,
you conquered sin,
put death to flight,
and gave us the hope
of everlasting life:*

*Redeem all our days by this victory;
forgive our sins, banish our fears,
make us bold to praise you
and to do your will;
and steel us to wait for the
consummation of your kingdom
on the last great Day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Why, O God, have you permanently rejected us?
Why does your anger burn against the sheep of your pasture?
2 Remember your people whom you acquired in ancient times,
whom you rescued so they could be your very own nation,
as well as Mount Zion, where you dwell.

3 Hurry to the permanent ruins,
and to all the damage the enemy has done to the temple.

...

11 Why do you remain inactive?
Intervene and destroy him.

12 But God has been my king from ancient times,
performing acts of deliverance on the earth.

13 You destroyed the sea by your strength;
you shattered the heads of the sea monster in the water.

14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you fed him to the people who live along the coast.

15 You broke open the spring and the stream;
you dried up perpetually flowing rivers.

16 You established the cycle of day and night;
you put the moon and sun in place.

17 You set up all the boundaries of the earth;
you created the cycle of summer and winter.

18 Remember how the enemy hurls insults, O Lord,
and how a foolish nation blasphemes your name.

19 Do not hand the life of your dove over to a wild animal.
Do not continue to disregard the lives
of your oppressed people.

20 Remember your covenant promises,
for the dark regions of the earth
are full of places where violence rules.

21 Do not let the afflicted be turned back in shame.
Let the oppressed and poor praise your name.

22 Rise up, O God. Defend your honor.

CONFESSION

Lord, though you should guide us,
we inform ourselves;
though you should rule us, we
control ourselves;
though you should fulfill us, we
console ourselves.

We think your truth too high,
your will too hard,
your power too remote,
your love too free.
But they are not!
And without them,
we are of all people most miserable.

Now heal our confused minds
with your word,
heal our divided wills
with your law,
heal our troubled consciences
with your love,
heal our anxious hearts
with your presence,
all for the sake of your Son,
who loved us
and gave himself for us.

Amen.

—

Almighty Father, who for your great
love of your creation
did give your dearly beloved Son
to die for us;

Grant that through his Cross
our sins may be put away, and
remembered no more against us,
and that, cleansed by his Blood,
and mindful of his sufferings,
we may take up our cross daily,
and follow him in newness of life,
until we come to his
everlasting kingdom;

through the Name of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Remember how fools insult you all day long.
23 Do not disregard what your enemies say,
or the unceasing shouts of those who defy you.

JEREMIAH 29:1-14

The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter to the exiles
Nebuchadnezzar had carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon. It
was addressed to the elders who were left among the exiles, to
the priests, to the prophets, and to all the other people who
were exiled in Babylon. 2 He sent it after King Jeconiah, the
queen mother, the palace officials, the leaders of Judah and
Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had been
exiled from Jerusalem. 3 He sent it with Elasah son of Shaphan
and Gemariah son of Hilkiah. King Zedekiah of Judah had sent
these men to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The
letter said:

4 "The Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all
those he sent into exile to Babylon from Jerusalem, 5 'Build
houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat what they
produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters. Find wives for
your sons and allow your daughters to get married so that they
too can have sons and daughters. Grow in number; do not
dwindle away. 7 Work to see that the city where I sent you as
exiles enjoys peace and prosperity. Pray to the Lord for it. For as
it prospers you will prosper.'

8 "For the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says, 'Do
not let the prophets among you or those who claim to be able
to predict the future by divination deceive you. And do not pay
any attention to the dreams that you are encouraging them to
dream. 9 They are prophesying lies to you and claiming my
authority to do so. But I did not send them. I, the Lord, affirm
it!'

10 "For the Lord says, 'Only when the seventy years of
Babylonian rule are over will I again take up consideration for
you. Then I will fulfill my gracious promise to you and restore
you to your homeland. 11 For I know what I have planned for
you,' says the Lord. 'I have plans to prosper you, not to harm

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope. 12 When you call out to me and come to me in prayer, I will hear your prayers. 13 When you seek me in prayer and worship, you will find me available to you. If you seek me with all your heart and soul, 14 I will make myself available to you,' says the Lord. 'Then I will reverse your plight and will regather you from all the nations and all the places where I have exiled you,' says the Lord. 'I will bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.'

...

EZRA 1-2

1 In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in fulfillment of the Lord's message spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord motivated King Cyrus of Persia to issue a proclamation throughout his kingdom and also to put it in writing. It read:

2 "This is what King Cyrus of Persia says:

"The Lord God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build a temple for him in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Anyone of his people among you (may his God be with him!) may go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and may build the temple of the Lord God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem. 4 Anyone who survives in any of those places where he is a resident foreigner must be helped by his neighbors with silver, gold, equipment, and animals, along with voluntary offerings for the temple of God which is in Jerusalem."

5 Then the leaders of Judah and Benjamin, along with the priests and the Levites—all those whose mind God had stirred—got ready to go up in order to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. 6 All their neighbors assisted them with silver utensils, gold, equipment, animals, and expensive gifts, not to mention all the voluntary offerings.

7 Then King Cyrus brought out the vessels of the Lord's temple which Nebuchadnezzar had brought from Jerusalem and had displayed in the temple of his gods. 8 King Cyrus of Persia entrusted them to Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the leader of the Judahite exiles.

9 The inventory of these items was as follows:

30 gold basins,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

O God,
the life of all who live,
the light of the faithful,
the strength of those who labor,
and the repose of the dead:

We thank you for the blessings
of the day that is past,
and humbly ask for your protection
through the coming night.

Bring us in safety
to the morning hours;
through him who died
and rose again for us,
your Son our Savior
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

1,000 silver basins,
29 silver utensils,
10 30 gold bowls,
410 other silver bowls,
and 1,000 other vessels.

11 All these gold and silver vessels totaled 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought them all along when the captives were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

2 These are the people of the province who were going up, from the captives of the exile whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had forced into exile in Babylon. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own city. 2 They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.

The number of Israelites was as follows:

3 the descendants of Parosh: 2,172;

4 the descendants of Shephatiah: 372;

5 the descendants of Arah: 775;

6 the descendants of Pahath Moab (from the line of Jeshua and Joab): 2,812;

7 the descendants of Elam: 1,254;

8 the descendants of Zattu: 945;

9 the descendants of Zaccai: 760;

10 the descendants of Bani: 642;

11 the descendants of Bebai: 623;

12 the descendants of Azgad: 1,222;

13 the descendants of Adonikam: 666;

14 the descendants of Bigvai: 2,056;

15 the descendants of Adin: 454;

16 the descendants of Ater (through Hezekiah): 98;

17 the descendants of Bezai: 323;

18 the descendants of Jorah: 112;

19 the descendants of Hashum: 223;

20 the descendants of Gibbar: 95.

21 The men of Bethlehem: 123;

22 the men of Netophah: 56;

23 the men of Anathoth: 128;

24 the men of the family of Azmaveth: 42;

25 the men of Kiriath Jearim, Kephirah and Beeroth: 743;

26 the men of Ramah and Geba: 621;

27 the men of Micmash: 122;

28 the men of Bethel and Ai: 223;

LISTEN

Come Ye Disconsolate

-Roberta Flack

Come Alive

-Lauren Daigle

Cloud of Witnesses

-Aable

The Sun Will Rise

-Good Shepherd Collective

PONDER

Sunrise On The Water

-Yoram Raanan

<https://www.yoramraanan.com/biblical-prints/sunrise-on-the-water>

Come Ye Disconsolate

-Thomas Moore (1779-1852)

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-come-ye-disconsolate>

*Come ye disconsolate,
where'er ye languish;
Come, at God's altar fervently kneel;
Here bring your wounded hearts,
here tell your anguish:
Earth has no sorrow
that Heaven cannot heal.
Joy of the desolate, Light of the straying,
Hope, when all others die,
fadeless and pure:
Here speaks the Comforter,
in God's name saying,
"Earth has no sorrow
that Heaven cannot cure."
Here see the Bread of Life;
see waters flowing
Forth from the throne of God,
pure from above:
Come to the feast of love;
come, ever knowing
Earth has no sorrow
but heaven can remove.*

29 the descendants of Nebo: 52;
30 the descendants of Magbish: 156;
31 the descendants of the other Elam: 1,254;
32 the descendants of Harim: 320;
33 the men of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: 725;
34 the men of Jericho: 345;
35 the descendants of Senaah: 3,630.
36 The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua): 973;
37 the descendants of Immer: 1,052;
38 the descendants of Pashhur: 1,247;
39 the descendants of Harim: 1,017.

40 The Levites: the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel (through the line of Hodaviah): 74.

41 The singers: the descendants of Asaph: 128.

42 The gatekeepers: the descendants of Shallum, the descendants of Ater, the descendants of Talmon, the descendants of Akkub, the descendants of Hatita, and the descendants of Shobai: 139.

43 The temple servants: the descendants of Ziha, the descendants of Hasupha, the descendants of Tabbaoth, 44 the descendants of Keros, the descendants of Siaha, the descendants of Padon, 45 the descendants of Lebanah, the descendants of Hagabah, the descendants of Akkub, 46 the descendants of Hagab, the descendants of Shalmal, the descendants of Hanan, 47 the descendants of Giddel, the descendants of Gahar, the descendants of Reaiah, 48 the descendants of Rezin, the descendants of Nekoda, the descendants of Gazzam, 49 the descendants of Uzzah, the descendants of Paseah, the descendants of Besai, 50 the descendants of Asnah, the descendants of Meunim, the descendants of Nephussim, 51 the descendants of Bakbuk, the descendants of Hakupha, the descendants of Harhur, 52 the descendants of Bazluth, the descendants of Mehida, the descendants of Harsha, 53 the descendants of Barkos, the descendants of Sisera, the descendants of Temah, 54 the descendants of Neziah, and the descendants of Hatipha.

55 The descendants of the servants of Solomon: the descendants of Sotai, the descendants of Hassophereth, the descendants of Peruda, 56 the descendants of Jaala, the descendants of Darkon, the descendants of Giddel, 57 the descendants of Shephatiah, the descendants of Hattil, the descendants of Pokereth Hazzebaim, and the descendants of Ami. 58 All the temple servants and the

descendants of the servants of Solomon: 392.

59 These are the ones that came up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Kerub, Addon, and Immer (although they were unable to certify their family connection or their ancestry, as to whether they really were from Israel): 60 the descendants of Delaiah, the descendants of Tobiah, and the descendants of Nekoda: 652.

61 And from among the priests: the descendants of Hobaiah, the descendants of Hakkoz, and the descendants of Barzillai (who had taken a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by that name). 62 They searched for their records in the genealogical materials, but did not find them. They were therefore excluded from the priesthood. 63 The governor instructed them not to eat any of the sacred food until there was a priest who could consult the Urim and Thummim.

64 The entire group numbered 42,360, 65 not counting their male and female servants, who numbered 7,337. They also had 200 male and female singers 66 and 736 horses, 245 mules, 67 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys. 68 When they came to the Lord's temple in Jerusalem, some of the family leaders offered voluntary offerings for the temple of God in order to rebuild it on its site. 69 As they were able, they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 drachmas of gold, 5,000 minas of silver, and 100 priestly robes.

70 The priests, the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants lived in their towns, and all the rest of Israel lived in their towns.

ISAIAH 40

"Comfort, comfort my people,"
says your God.

2 "Speak kindly to Jerusalem and tell her
that her time of warfare is over,
that her punishment is completed.
For the Lord has made her pay double for all
her sins."

3 A voice cries out,
"In the wilderness clear a way for the Lord;
build a level road through the rift valley for
our God.

4 Every valley must be elevated,
and every mountain and hill leveled.
The rough terrain will become a level plain,
the rugged landscape a wide valley.

5 The splendor of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it at the same time.
For the Lord has decreed it."

...

11 Like a shepherd he tends his flock;
he gathers up the lambs with his arm;
he carries them close to his heart;
he leads the ewes along.

12 Who has measured out the waters in the
hollow of his hand,
or carefully measured the sky,
or carefully weighed the soil of the earth,
or weighed the mountains in a balance,
or the hills on scales?

...

19 A craftsman casts an idol;
a metalsmith overlays it with gold
and forges silver chains for it.

20 To make a contribution one selects wood
that will not rot;

he then seeks a skilled craftsman
to make an idol that will not fall over.
21 Do you not know?
Do you not hear?
Has it not been told to you since the very
beginning?
Have you not understood from the time the
earth's foundations were made?
...
25 "To whom can you compare me? Whom
do I resemble?"
says the Holy One.
26 Look up at the sky!
Who created all these heavenly lights?
He is the one who leads out their ranks;
he calls them all by name.
Because of his absolute power and awesome
strength,
not one of them is missing.
27 Why do you say, Jacob,
Why do you say, Israel,

"The Lord is not aware of what is happening
to me;
My God is not concerned with my
vindication"?"
28 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is an eternal God,
the Creator of the whole earth.
He does not get tired or weary;
there is no limit to his wisdom.
29 He gives strength to those who are tired;
to the ones who lack power, he gives
renewed energy.
30 Even youths get tired and weary;
even strong young men clumsily stumble.
31 But those who wait for the Lord's help find
renewed strength;
they rise up as if they had eagles' wings,
they run without growing weary,
they walk without getting tired.

HEBREWS 1

1 After God spoke long ago in various portions and in various ways to our ancestors through the prophets, 2 in these last days he has spoken to us in a son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he created the world. 3 The Son is the radiance of his glory and the representation of his essence, and he sustains all things by his powerful word, and so when he had accomplished cleansing for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. 4 Thus he became so far better than the angels as he has inherited a name superior to theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my son! Today I have fathered you"? And in another place he says, "I will be his father and he will be my son." 6 But when he again brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all the angels of God worship him!" 7 And he says of the angels, "He makes his angels winds and his ministers a flame of fire," 8 but of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and a righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness.

So God, your God, has anointed you over your companions with the oil of rejoicing."

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Worship Restored

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MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
you have made of one blood
all the peoples of the earth,
and sent your blessed Son
to preach peace to those
who are far off
and to those who are near:

Grant that people everywhere
may seek after you and find you;
bring the nations into your fold;

pour out your Spirit upon all flesh;
and hasten the coming of your
kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Worship Restored

PSALM 42

As a deer longs for streams of water,
so I long for you, O God!

I thirst for God,
for the living God.

I say, "When will I be able to go
and appear in God's presence?"

...

5 Why are you depressed, O my soul?
Why are you upset?

Wait for God!

For I will again give thanks
to my God for his saving intervention.

...

8 By day the Lord decrees his loyal love,
and by night he gives me a song,
a prayer to the God of my life.

...

11 Why are you depressed, O my soul?
Why are you upset?
Wait for God!

For I will again give thanks
to my God for his saving intervention.

EZRA 3

When the seventh month arrived and the Israelites were living in their towns, the people assembled in Jerusalem. 2 Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his priestly colleagues and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his colleagues started to build the altar of the God of Israel so they could offer burnt offerings on it as required by the law of Moses the man of God. 3 They established the altar on its foundations, even though they were in terror of the local peoples, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and the evening offerings. 4 They observed the Feast of Shelters as required and offered the proper number of daily burnt offerings according to the

CONFESSION

O Father,
we are gathered before you,
the Maker of Heaven and Earth,
whose chosen dwelling place
is with the broken and contrite,
to confess
that we have sinned in thought
and word and deed;
we have not loved you
with all our heart and soul,
we have not loved you
with all our mind and strength;
we have not even loved our
neighbor as ourselves.

Purge us from selfishness,
the fear of man,
and the love of praise.

In your mercy,
deepen our sorrow
for the wrong we have done
and for the good
we have left undone,
so that we may hate our sin
with a holy hatred.

But, please Father,
do not leave us in sorrow.

With you, O Lord,
there is forgiveness.
In your mercy,
restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love you with a holy
love.

Amen.

—

Almighty God,
who does freely pardon
all who repent and turn to Him,
now fulfill in every contrite heart
the promise of redeeming grace;
forgiving all our sins,
and cleansing us from
an evil conscience;
through the perfect sacrifice of
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

requirement for each day. 5 Afterward they offered the continual burnt offerings and those for the new moons and those for all the holy assemblies of the Lord and all those that were being voluntarily offered to the Lord. 6 From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord. However, the Lord's temple was not at that time established.

7 So they provided money for the masons and carpenters, and food, beverages, and olive oil for the people of Sidon and Tyre, so that they would bring cedar timber from Lebanon to the seaport at Joppa, in accord with the edict of King Cyrus of Persia. 8 In the second year after they had come to the temple of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak initiated the work, along with the rest of their associates, the priests and the Levites, and all those who were coming to Jerusalem from the exile. They appointed the Levites who were at least twenty years old to take charge of the work on the Lord's temple. 9 So Jeshua appointed both his sons and his relatives, Kadmiel and his sons (the sons of Yehudah), to take charge of the workers in the temple of God, along with the sons of Henadad, their sons, and their relatives the Levites. 10 When the builders established the Lord's temple, the priests, ceremonially attired and with their clarions, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with their cymbals, stood to praise the Lord according to the instructions left by King David of Israel. 11 With antiphonal response they sang, praising and glorifying the Lord:

"For he is good;

his loyal love toward Israel is forever."

All the people gave a loud shout as they praised the Lord when the temple of the Lord was established. 12 Many of the priests, the Levites, and the leaders—older people who had seen with their own eyes the former temple while it was still established—were weeping loudly, and many others raised their voice in a joyous shout. 13 People were unable to tell the difference between the sound of joyous shouting and the sound of the people's weeping, for the people were shouting so loudly that the sound was heard a long way off.

ACTS 2

Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And tongues spreading out like a fire appeared to them and came to rest on each one of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven residing in Jerusalem. 6 When this sound occurred, a crowd gathered and was in confusion, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Completely baffled, they said, "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that each one of us hears them in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own languages about the great deeds God has done!" 12 All were astounded and greatly confused, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others jeered at the speakers, saying, "They are drunk on new wine!"

14 But Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice, and addressed them: "You men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, know this and listen carefully to what I say. 15 In spite of what you think, these men are not drunk, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel:

17 'And in the last days it will be,' God says,
'that I will pour out my Spirit on all people,
and your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
and your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

19 And I will perform wonders in the sky above
and miraculous signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

20 The sun will be changed to darkness
and the moon to blood

before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

21 And then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

—

EVENING PRAYER

Be present,
O merciful God,
and protect us through the hours of
the night,

so that we who are wearied
by the changes
and chances of this life
may rest
in your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

saved.'

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man clearly attested to you by God with powerful deeds, wonders, and miraculous signs that God performed among you through him, just as you yourselves know— 23 this man, who was handed over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you executed by nailing him to a cross at the hands of Gentiles. 24 But God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held in its power. 25 For David says about him,

'I saw the Lord always in front of me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced;
my body also will live in hope,

27 because you will not leave my soul in Hades,
nor permit your Holy One to experience decay.

28 You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of joy with your presence.'

29 "Brothers, I can speak confidently to you about our forefather David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 So then, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, 31 David by foreseeing this spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his body experience decay. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 So then, exalted to the right hand of God, and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out what you both see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says,

'The Lord said to my lord,
"Sit at my right hand

35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ."

37 Now when they heard this, they were acutely distressed and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "What should we do, brothers?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each one of you

LISTEN

Soul On Fire

-Mercy Me

Bless God

-Brooke Ligertwood

Gratitude/ Worthy Of It All

-Maverick City Music

Fire

-Haromi & Edmar Castaneda

PONDER

Holding The Flame Of Fire

-Jyoti Sahi, 2005

<https://artandtheology.org/2022/06/03/catching-fire/>

Untitled Poem

-Theodore Roszak, 1972

<https://artandtheology.org/2022/06/03/catching-fire/>

Pentecost

-Linda Schmidt, 1991

www.shortattentionspanquilting.com/uploads/2/4/5/8/24581310/6715749_orig.jpg

be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself." 40 With many other words he testified and exhorted them saying, "Save yourselves from this perverse generation!" 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 people were added.

42 They were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Reverential awe came over everyone, and many wonders and miraculous signs came about by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and held everything in common, 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need. 46 Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, 47 praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved.

ROMANS 10

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of my fellow Israelites is for their salvation. 2 For I can testify that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not in line with the truth. 3 For ignoring the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking instead to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law, with the result that there is righteousness for everyone who believes.

...

9 because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and thus has righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation. 11 For the scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, who richly blesses all who call on him. 13 For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Rebuild Threatened

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Rebuild Threatened

PSALM 123

I look up toward you,
the one enthroned in heaven.

MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,
you stretched out your arms of love
on the hard wood of the Cross
that everyone might come
within the reach
of your saving embrace:

So clothe us in your Spirit
that we,
reaching forth our hands in love,
may bring those
who do not know you
to the knowledge and love of you;
for the honor
of your Name.

Amen.

2 Look, as the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female servant
look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes will look to the Lord, our God,
until he shows us favor.

3 Show us favor, O Lord, show us favor!
For we have had our fill of humiliation, and then some.

4 We have had our fill
of the taunts of the self-assured,
of the contempt of the proud.

EZRA 4-5

4 When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin learned that the former exiles were building a temple for the Lord God of Israel, **2** they came to Zerubbabel and the leaders and said to them, "Let us help you build, for like you we seek your God and we have been sacrificing to him from the time of King Esarhaddon of Assyria, who brought us here." **3** But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the leaders of Israel said to them, "You have no right to help us build the temple of our God. We will build it by ourselves for the Lord God of Israel, just as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, has commanded us." **4** Then the local people began to discourage the people of Judah and to dishearten them from building. **5** They were hiring advisers to oppose them, so as to frustrate their plans, throughout the time of King Cyrus of Persia until the reign of King Darius of Persia.

6 At the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus they filed an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. **7** And during the reign of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, Mithredath,

CONFESSION

Father in heaven,
we thank you for the freedom
you have given us
through the life, death
and resurrection of your Son.

But we confess today that we often
live like slaves.

Instead of
living like you delight in us,
we avoid you in shame and guilt.

Instead of
receiving your favor as a gift,
we try to earn it with our efforts.

Instead of
accepting your freedom,
we prefer our chains.

Instead of
pursuing your purposes, we cling
to our short-sighted agendas.

Forgive us. Embrace us.
Cleanse us. Heal us.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips
tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free
from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future
in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more
in your likeness and image,

through Jesus Christ,
the light of the world.

Amen.

Tabeel, and the rest of their colleagues wrote to King Artaxerxes of Persia. This letter was first written in Aramaic but then translated.

[What follows is in Aramaic] 8 Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter concerning Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes as follows: 9 From Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their colleagues—the judges, the rulers, the officials, the secretaries, the Erechites, the Babylonians, the people of Susa (that is, the Elamites), 10 and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Ashurbanipal deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and other places in Trans-Euphrates. 11 (This is a copy of the letter they sent to him.)

“To King Artaxerxes, from your servants in Trans-Euphrates: 12 Now let the king be aware that the Jews who came up to us from you have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and odious city. They are completing its walls and repairing its foundations. 13 Let the king also be aware that if this city is built and its walls are completed, no more tax, custom, or toll will be paid, and the royal treasury will suffer loss. 14 In light of the fact that we are loyal to the king, and since it does not seem appropriate to us that the king should sustain damage, we are sending the king this information 15 so that he may initiate a search of the records of his predecessors and discover in those records that this city is rebellious and injurious to both kings and provinces, producing internal revolts from long ago. It is for this very reason that this city was destroyed. 16 We therefore are informing the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are completed, you will not retain control of this portion of Trans-Euphrates.”

17 The king sent the following response:

“To Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their colleagues who live in Samaria and other parts of Trans-Euphrates: Greetings! 18 The letter you sent to us has been translated and read in my presence. 19 So I gave orders, and it was determined that this city from long ago has been engaging in insurrection against kings. It has continually engaged in rebellion and revolt. 20 Powerful kings have been over Jerusalem who ruled throughout the entire Trans-Euphrates and who were the beneficiaries of tribute, custom, and toll. 21 Now

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

give orders that these men cease their work and that this city not be rebuilt until such time as I so instruct. 22 Exercise appropriate caution so that there is no negligence in this matter. Why should danger increase to the point that the king sustains damage?"

23 Then, as soon as the copy of the letter from King Artaxerxes was read in the presence of Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their colleagues, they proceeded promptly to the Jews in Jerusalem and stopped them with threat of armed force.

24 So the work on the temple of God in Jerusalem came to a halt. It remained halted until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.

5 Then the prophets Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo prophesied concerning the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel who was over them. 2 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak began to rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem. The prophets of God were with them, supporting them.

3 At that time Tattenai governor of Trans-Euphrates, Shethar-Bozenai, and their colleagues came to them and asked, "Who gave you authority to rebuild this temple and to complete this structure?" 4 They also asked them, "What are the names of the men who are building this edifice?" 5 But God was watching over the elders of Judah, and they were not stopped until a report could be dispatched to Darius and a letter could be sent back concerning this.

6 This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai governor of Trans-Euphrates, Shethar-Bozenai, and his colleagues (who were the officials of Trans-Euphrates) sent to King Darius. 7 The report they sent to him was written as follows:

"To King Darius: All greetings! 8 Let it be known to the king that we have gone to the province of Judah, to the temple of the great God. It is being built with large stones, and timbers are being placed in the walls. This work is being done with all diligence and is prospering in their hands. 9 We inquired of those elders, asking them, 'Who gave you the authority to

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Be our light
in the darkness, O Lord,

and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils
and dangers of this night;

for the love of your only Son,
our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

rebuild this temple and to complete this structure?' 10 We also inquired of their names in order to inform you, so that we might write the names of the men who were their leaders. 11 They responded to us in the following way: 'We are servants of the God of heaven and earth. We are rebuilding the temple which was previously built many years ago. A great king of Israel built it and completed it. 12 But after our ancestors angered the God of heaven, he delivered them into the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and exiled the people to Babylon. 13 But in the first year of King Cyrus of Babylon, King Cyrus enacted a decree to rebuild this temple of God. 14 Even the gold and silver vessels of the temple of God that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem and had brought to the palace of Babylon—even those things King Cyrus brought from the palace of Babylon and presented to a man by the name of Sheshbazzar whom he had appointed as governor. 15 He said to him, "Take these vessels and go deposit them in the temple in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt in its proper location." 16 Then this Sheshbazzar went and laid the foundations of the temple of God in Jerusalem. From that time to the present moment it has been in the process of being rebuilt, although it is not yet finished.'

17 "Now if the king is so inclined, let a search be conducted in the royal archives there in Babylon in order to determine whether King Cyrus did in fact issue orders for this temple of God to be rebuilt in Jerusalem. Then let the king send us a decision concerning this matter."

2 PETER 3

Dear friends, this is already the second letter I have written you, in which I am trying to stir up your pure mind by way of reminder: 2 I want you to recall both the predictions foretold by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. 3 Above all, understand this: In the last days blatant scoffers will come, being propelled by their own evil urges 4 and saying, "Where is his promised return? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For they deliberately suppress this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed

LISTEN

Believe For It

-CeCe Winans & Lauren Daigle

Hymn Of Heaven

-Common Gathering

You've Already Won

-Worship Initiative & Davey Flowers

PONDER

Works Of Mercy

-Jen Norton, 2016

<https://www.jennortonartstudio.com/our-year-of-mercy/>

Tower Of Mothers

-Käthe Kollwitz, 1938

<https://artandtheology.org/2023/12/28/the-tower-of-mothers-by-evelyn-bence/>

long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water. 6 Through these things the world existing at that time was destroyed when it was deluged with water. 7 But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, by being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

8 Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your notice, that a single day is like a thousand years with the Lord and a thousand years are like a single day. 9 The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare. 11 Since all these things are to melt away in this manner, what sort of people must you be, conducting your lives in holiness and godliness, 12 while waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God? Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze! 13 But, according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness truly resides.

14 Therefore, dear friends, since you are waiting for these things, strive to be found at peace, without spot or blemish, when you come into his presence. 15 And regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as also our dear brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom given to him, 16 speaking of these things in all his letters. Some things in these letters are hard to understand, things the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to the rest of the scriptures. 17 Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard that you do not get led astray by the error of these unprincipled men and fall from your firm grasp on the truth. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the honor both now and on that eternal day.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Reflect

What stood out to you from the reading this week?

Describe any thoughts or feelings you had while reading, praying, listening, or looking at art this week.

What did you noticed about God, yourself, and the world?

What are you curious about? What questions, ideas, or texts would you like to explore more?

Respond

What would it look like for you to respond? Remember, response is more than 'application.' It can be almost anything including worship, belief, confession, emotion, and action.



Ezra 6-10



Temple Dedication

READ

Psalm 124
Ezra 6
Psalm 122
Luke 2:25-40
Ephesians 2

LISTEN

Holy Forever
-I Am They

PONDER

Kingdom Of God
- Cody Miller



Ezra the Scribe

LISTEN

READ

Psalm 127
Ezra 7
Psalm 73
Ephesians 3

Lift Every Voice And Sing
-Laval Belle

PONDER

Ezra Reads The Law
- Julius Schnorr von
Carolsfield, 1860



Good Hand of God

LISTEN

READ

Psalm 128
Ezra 8
Hebrews 8-10

Boldly I Approach -Rend
Collective

PONDER

Crucifixion
- Kim Young Gil



Prayer & Response

LISTEN

READ

Psalm 130
Ezra 9-10
Romans 2-3

Thank You Jesus
-Charity Gayle

PONDER

LOVE
- Roy Croft

Temple Dedication

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MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall show forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, the King eternal,
whose light divides
the day from the night
and turns the shadow of death
into the morning:

Drive far from us all wrong desires,
incline our hearts to keep your law,
and guide our feet
into the way of peace;

that, having done your will
with cheerfulness during the day,
we may, when night comes,
rejoice to give you thanks;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Temple Dedication

PSALM 124

"If the Lord had not been on our side"
—let Israel say this.—

2 If the Lord had not been on our side,
when men attacked us,

3 they would have swallowed us alive,
when their anger raged against us.

4 The water would have overpowered us;
the current would have overwhelmed us.

5 The raging water
would have overwhelmed us.

6 The Lord deserves praise,
for he did not hand us over as prey to their teeth.

7 We escaped with our lives, like a bird from a hunter's snare.
The snare broke, and we escaped.

8 Our deliverer is the Lord,
the Creator of heaven and earth.

EZRA 6

6 So Darius the king issued orders, and they searched in the archives of the treasury which were deposited there in Babylon. 2 A scroll was found in the citadel of Ecbatana which is in the province of Media, and it was inscribed as follows:

"Memorandum: 3 In the first year of his reign, King Cyrus gave orders concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem: 'Let the temple be rebuilt as a place where sacrifices are offered. Let its foundations be set in place. Its height is to be 90 feet and its width 90 feet, 4 with three layers of large stones and one layer of timber. The expense is to be subsidized by the royal treasury. 5 Furthermore, let the gold and silver vessels of the temple of God, which Nebuchadnezzar brought from the temple in Jerusalem and carried to Babylon, be returned and brought to their proper place in the temple in Jerusalem. Let them be deposited in the temple of God.'

CONFESSION

Most merciful God,
we confess
that we have sinned against you
in thought,
word,
and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves.

We are truly sorry
and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us
and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

—

Grant your faithful people,
merciful Lord,
pardon and peace;

that we may be cleansed
from all our sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

6 “Now Tattenai governor of Trans-Euphrates, Shethar-Bozenai, and their colleagues, the officials of Trans-Euphrates—all of you stay far away from there. 7 Leave the work on this temple of God alone. Let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews rebuild this temple of God in its proper place.

8 “I also hereby issue orders as to what you are to do with those elders of the Jews in order to rebuild this temple of God. From the royal treasury, from the taxes of Trans-Euphrates, the complete costs are to be given to these men so that there may be no interruption of the work. 9 Whatever is needed—whether oxen or rams or lambs for burnt offerings for the God of heaven or wheat or salt or wine or oil, as required by the priests who are in Jerusalem—must be given to them daily without any neglect, 10 so that they may be offering incense to the God of heaven and may be praying for the good fortune of the king and his family.

11 “I hereby give orders that if anyone changes this directive a beam is to be pulled out from his house and he is to be raised up and impaled on it, and his house is to be reduced to a rubbish heap for this indiscretion. 12 May God who makes his name to reside there overthrow any king or nation who reaches out to cause such change so as to destroy this temple of God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, have given orders. Let them be carried out with precision!”

13 Then Tattenai governor of Trans-Euphrates, Shethar-Bozenai, and their colleagues acted accordingly—with precision, just as Darius the king had given instructions. 14 The elders of the Jews continued building and prospering, while at the same time Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo continued prophesying. They built and brought it to completion by the command of the God of Israel and by the command of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia. 15 They finished this temple on the third day of the month Adar, which is the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

16 The people of Israel—the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the exiles—observed the dedication of this temple of God with joy. 17 For the dedication of this temple of God they offered 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and 12 male goats for the sin of all Israel, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

18 They appointed the priests by their divisions and the Levites by their divisions over the worship of God at Jerusalem, in accord with the book of Moses. 19 The exiles observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. 20 The priests and the Levites had purified themselves, every last one, and they all were ceremonially pure. They sacrificed the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their colleagues the priests, and for themselves. 21 The Israelites who were returning from the exile ate it, along with all those who had joined them in separating themselves from the uncleanness of the nations of the land to seek the Lord God of Israel. 22 They observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with joy, for the Lord had given them joy and had changed the opinion of the king of Assyria toward them so that he assisted them in the work on the temple of God, the God of Israel.

PSALM 122

I was glad because they said to me,
“We will go to the Lord’s temple.”

2 Our feet are standing
inside your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is a city designed
to accommodate an assembly.

4 The tribes go up there,
the tribes of the Lord,
where it is required that Israel
give thanks to the name of the Lord.

5 Indeed, the leaders sit there on thrones
and make legal decisions,
on the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
May those who love her prosper.

7 May there be peace inside your defenses,
and prosperity inside your fortresses.

8 For the sake of my brothers and my neighbors
I will say, “May there be peace in you.”

9 For the sake of the temple of the Lord our God
I will pray for you to prosper.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

—

EVENING PRAYER

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work,
or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

LUKE 2:25-40

2 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon who was righteous and devout, looking for the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 So Simeon, directed by the Spirit, came into the temple courts, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and blessed God, saying, 29 "Now, according to your word, Sovereign Lord, permit your servant to depart in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples: 32 a light, for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

33 So the child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "Listen carefully: This child is destined to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be rejected. 35 Indeed, as a result of him the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul as well!"

36 There was also a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old, having been married to her husband for seven years until his death. 37 She had lived as a widow since then for eighty-four years. She never left the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 At that moment, she came up to them and began to give thanks to God and to speak about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 So when Joseph and Mary had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

EPHESIANS 2

And although you were dead in your offenses and sins, 2 in

LISTEN

This I Believe

-Hillsong Worship

Joy Of The Lord

-Rend Collective

Holy Forever

I AM THEY

King Of All The Nations

-Temitope

PONDER

There Will Be Joy

-Tatyana Cohen

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/918866775/there-will-be-joy-jewish-art-print-dance>

Kingdom Of God

-Cody Miller

<https://www.codymiller.com/products/kingdom-of-god>

which you formerly lived according to this world's present path, according to the ruler of the domain of the air, the ruler of the spirit that is now energizing the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom all of us also formerly lived out our lives in the cravings of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath even as the rest...

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, 5 even though we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved!— 6 and he raised us up together with him and seated us together with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 to demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 it is not from works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are his creative work, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we can do them.

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh—who are called “uncircumcision” by the so-called “circumcision” that is performed on the body by human hands— 12 that you were at that time without the Messiah, alienated from the citizenship of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who used to be far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, the one who made both groups into one and who destroyed the middle wall of partition, the hostility, 15 when he nullified in his flesh the law of commandments in decrees. He did this to create in himself one new man out of two, thus making peace, 16 and to reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by which the hostility has been killed. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, 18 so that through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer foreigners and noncitizens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household, 20 because you have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Gra The Scribe

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Ezra The Scribe

PSALM 127

MORNING PRAYER

*O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.*

*O God,
make speed to save us.*

*O Lord,
make haste to help us.*

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit*

*As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.*

Amen.

COLLECT

*O God our King,
by the resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
on the first day of the week,
you conquered sin,
put death to flight,
and gave us the hope
of everlasting life:*

*Redeem all our days by this victory;
forgive our sins, banish our fears,
make us bold to praise you
and to do your will;
and steel us to wait for the
consummation of your kingdom
on the last great Day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

If the Lord does not build a house,
then those who build it work in vain.

If the Lord does not guard a city,
then the watchman stands guard in vain.

2 It is vain for you to rise early, come home late,
and work so hard for your food.

Yes, he provides for those whom he loves
even when they sleep.

3 Yes, sons are a gift from the Lord;
the fruit of the womb is a reward.

4 Sons born during one's youth
are like arrows in a warrior's hand.

5 How blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them.

They will not be put to shame
when they confront enemies at the city gate.

EZRA 7

Now after these things had happened, during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, Ezra came up from Babylon. Ezra was the son of Seraiah, who was the son of Azariah, who was the son of Hilkiah, 2 who was the son of Shallum, who was the son of Zadok, who was the son of Ahitub, 3 who was the son of Amariah, who was the son of Azariah, who was the son of Meraioth, 4 who was the son of Zerahiah, who was the son of Uzzi, who was the son of Bukki, 5 who was the son of Abishua, who was the son of Phinehas, who was the son of Eleazar, who was the son of Aaron the chief priest. 6 This Ezra is the one who came up from Babylon. He was a scribe who was skilled in the law of Moses which the Lord God of Israel had given. The king supplied him with everything he requested, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him. 7 In the seventh year of King Artaxerxes, Ezra brought up to Jerusalem some of the Israelites and some of the priests, the Levites, the attendants, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants. 8 He entered Jerusalem

CONFESSION

Lord, though you should guide us,
we inform ourselves;
though you should rule us, we
control ourselves;
though you should fulfill us, we
console ourselves.

We think your truth too high,
your will too hard,
your power too remote,
your love too free.
But they are not!
And without them,
we are of all people most miserable.

Now heal our confused minds
with your word,
heal our divided wills
with your law,
heal our troubled consciences
with your love,
heal our anxious hearts
with your presence,
all for the sake of your Son,
who loved us
and gave himself for us.

Amen.

—

Almighty Father, who for your great
love of your creation
did give your dearly beloved Son
to die for us;

Grant that through his Cross
our sins may be put away, and
remembered no more against us,
and that, cleansed by his Blood,
and mindful of his sufferings,
we may take up our cross daily,
and follow him in newness of life,
until we come to his
everlasting kingdom;

through the Name of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. 9 On the first day of the first month he had determined to make the ascent from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he arrived at Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him.

10 Now Ezra had dedicated himself to the study of the law of the Lord, to its observance, and to teaching its statutes and judgments in Israel.

11 What follows is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priestly scribe. Ezra was a scribe in matters pertaining to the commandments of the Lord and his statutes over Israel:

12 "Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven: 13 I have now issued a decree that anyone in my kingdom from the people of Israel—even the priests and Levites—who wishes to do so may go up with you to Jerusalem. 14 You are authorized by the king and his seven advisers to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of your God which is in your possession, 15 and to bring silver and gold which the king and his advisers have freely contributed to the God of Israel, who resides in Jerusalem, 16 along with all the silver and gold that you may collect throughout all the province of Babylon and the contributions of the people and the priests for the temple of their God which is in Jerusalem. 17 With this money you should be sure to purchase bulls, rams, and lambs, along with the appropriate meal offerings and libations. You should bring them to the altar of the temple of your God which is in Jerusalem. 18 You may do whatever seems appropriate to you and your colleagues with the rest of the silver and the gold, in keeping with the will of your God. 19 Deliver to the God of Jerusalem the vessels that are given to you for the service of the temple of your God. 20 The rest of the needs for the temple of your God that you may have to supply, you may do so from the royal treasury. 21 "I, King Artaxerxes, hereby issue orders to all the treasurers of Trans-Euphrates, that you precisely execute all that Ezra the priestly scribe of the law of the God of heaven may request of you— 22 up to 100 talents of silver, 100 cors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of olive oil, and unlimited salt. 23 Everything that the God of heaven has required should be precisely done for the temple of the God of heaven. Why should there be wrath against the empire of the king and his

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

sons? 24 Furthermore, be aware of the fact that you have no authority to impose tax, tribute, or toll on any of the priests, the Levites, the musicians, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or the attendants at the temple of this God.

25 "Now you, Ezra, in keeping with the wisdom of your God which you possess, appoint judges and court officials who can arbitrate cases on behalf of all the people who are in Trans-Euphrates who know the laws of your God. Those who do not know this law should be taught. 26 Everyone who does not observe both the law of your God and the law of the king will be completely liable to the appropriate penalty, whether it is death or banishment or confiscation of property or detainment in prison."

27 Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, who so moved in the heart of the king to so honor the temple of the Lord which is in Jerusalem! 28 He has also conferred his favor on me before the king, his advisers, and all the influential leaders of the king. I gained strength as the hand of the Lord my God was on me, and I gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.

PSALM 73

A psalm by Asaph.

Certainly God is good to Israel,
and to those whose motives are pure.

2 But as for me, my feet almost slipped;
my feet almost slid out from under me.

3 For I envied those who are proud,
as I observed the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For they suffer no pain;
their bodies are strong and well fed.

5 They are immune to the trouble common to men;
they do not suffer as other men do.

6 Arrogance is their necklace,
and violence covers them like clothing.

7 Their prosperity causes them to do wrong;
their thoughts are sinful.

8 They mock and say evil things;
they proudly threaten violence.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

O God,
the life of all who live,
the light of the faithful,
the strength of those who labor,
and the repose of the dead:

We thank you for the blessings
of the day that is past,
and humbly ask for your protection
through the coming night.

Bring us in safety
to the morning hours;
through him who died
and rose again for us,
your Son our Savior
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

9 They speak as if they rule in heaven,
and lay claim to the earth.

10 Therefore they have more than enough food to eat,
and even suck up the water of the sea.

11 They say, "How does God know what we do?
Is the Most High aware of what goes on?"

12 Take a good look. This is what the wicked are like,
those who always have it so easy and get richer and richer.

13 I concluded, "Surely in vain I have kept my motives pure
and maintained a pure lifestyle.

14 I suffer all day long,

and am punished every morning."

15 If I had publicized these thoughts,
I would have betrayed your people.

16 When I tried to make sense of this,
it was troubling to me.

17 Then I entered the precincts of God's temple,
and understood the destiny of the wicked.

18 Surely you put them in slippery places;
you bring them down to ruin.

19 How desolate they become in a mere moment.
Terrifying judgments make their demise complete.

20 They are like a dream after one wakes up.
O Lord, when you awake you will despise them.

21 Yes, my spirit was bitter,
and my insides felt sharp pain.

22 I was ignorant and lacked insight;
I was as senseless as an animal before you.

23 But I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.

24 You guide me by your wise advice,
and then you will lead me to a position of honor.

25 Whom do I have in heaven but you?
On earth there is no one I desire but you.

26 My flesh and my heart may grow weak,
but God always protects my heart and gives me stability.

27 Yes, look! Those far from you die;
you destroy everyone who is unfaithful to you.

28 But as for me, God's presence is all I need.

I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter,
as I declare all the things you have done.

LISTEN

Gratitude

-Brandon Lake

Lift Every Voice And Sing

-Laval Belle, Jesse Campbell

Build Your Kingdom Here

-Rend Collective

Hymn Of The Ages

-Maryanne J George

PONDER

Ezra Reads The Law

-Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, 1860

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=20240517182872243&code=act&RC=58619&Row=>

4

Shema Israel

-Alex Levin

<https://artlevin.com/wp-content/uploads/Shema-Israel-2.jpg.webp>

EPHESIANS 3

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 that by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I wrote before briefly. 4 When reading this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ 5 (which was not disclosed to people in former generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit), 6 namely, that through the gospel the Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus. 7 I became a servant of this gospel according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the exercise of his power. 8 To me—less than the least of all the saints—this grace was given, to proclaim to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ 9 and to enlighten everyone about God's secret plan—the mystery that has been hidden for ages in God who has created all things. 10 The purpose of this enlightenment is that through the church the multifaceted wisdom of God should now be disclosed to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly realms. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access to God by way of Christ's faithfulness. 13 For this reason I ask you not to lose heart because of what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. 16 I pray that according to the wealth of his glory he will grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, 17 that Christ will dwell in your hearts through faith, so that, because you have been rooted and grounded in love, 18 you will be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and thus to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you will be filled up to all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, 21 to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Good Hand of God
pass to pass pass

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MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
you have made of one blood
all the peoples of the earth,
and sent your blessed Son
to preach peace to those
who are far off
and to those who are near:

Grant that people everywhere
may seek after you and find you;
bring the nations into your fold;

pour out your Spirit upon all flesh;
and hasten the coming of your
kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Good Hand Of God

PSALM 128

How blessed is every one of the Lord's loyal followers,
each one who keeps his commands.

2 You will eat what you worked so hard to grow.
You will be blessed and secure.

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the inner rooms of your house;
your children will be like olive branches,
as they sit all around your table.

4 Yes indeed, the man who fears the Lord
will be blessed in this way.

5 May the Lord bless you from Zion,
that you might see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life,

6 and that you might see your grandchildren.
May Israel experience peace.

EZRA 8

These are the leaders and those enrolled with them by
genealogy who were coming up with me from Babylon during
the reign of King Artaxerxes:

2 from the descendants of Phinehas, Gershom;
from the descendants of Ithamar, Daniel;
from the descendants of David,
Hattush 3 the son of Shecaniah;
from the descendants of Parosh, Zechariah,
and with him were enrolled by genealogy 150 men;
4 from the descendants of Pahath Moab, Eliehoenai
son of Zerahiah, and with him 200 men;
5 from the descendants of Zattu, Shecaniah
son of Jahaziel, and with him 300 men;
6 from the descendants of Adin, Ebed
son of Jonathan, and with him 50 men;
7 from the descendants of Elam, Jeshaiiah
son of Athaliah, and with him 70 men;

CONFESSION

O Father,
we are gathered before you,
the Maker of Heaven and Earth,
whose chosen dwelling place
is with the broken and contrite,
to confess
that we have sinned in thought
and word and deed;
we have not loved you
with all our heart and soul,
we have not loved you
with all our mind and strength;
we have not even loved our
neighbor as ourselves.

Purge us from selfishness,
the fear of man,
and the love of praise.

In your mercy,
deepen our sorrow
for the wrong we have done
and for the good
we have left undone,
so that we may hate our sin
with a holy hatred.

But, please Father,
do not leave us in sorrow.

With you, O Lord,
there is forgiveness.
In your mercy,
restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love you with a holy
love.

Amen.

—

Almighty God,
who does freely pardon
all who repent and turn to Him,
now fulfill in every contrite heart
the promise of redeeming grace;
forgiving all our sins,
and cleansing us from
an evil conscience;
through the perfect sacrifice of
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

8 from the descendants of Shephatiah, Zebadiah
son of Michael, and with him 80 men;
9 from the descendants of Joab, Obadiah
son of Jehiel, and with him 218 men;
10 from the descendants of Bani, Shelomith
son of Josiphiah, and with him 160 men;
11 from the descendants of Bebai, Zechariah
son of Bebai, and with him 28 men;
12 from the descendants of Azgad, Johanan
son of Hakkatan, and with him 110 men;
13 from the descendants of Adonikam there were the latter
ones. Their names were Eliphelet, Jeuel,
and Shemaiah, and with them 60 men;
14 from the descendants of Bigvai, Uthai, and Zaccur,
and with them 70 men.

15 I had them assemble at the canal that flows toward Ahava,
and we camped there for three days. I observed that the
people and the priests were present, but I found no Levites
there. 16 So I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib,
Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, who were leaders,
and Joiarib and Elnathan, who were teachers. 17 I sent them to
Iddo, who was the leader in the place called Casiphia. I told
them what to say to Iddo and his relatives, who were the temple
servants in Casiphia, so they would bring us attendants for the
temple of our God.

18 Due to the fact that the good hand of our God was on us,
they brought us a skilled man, from the descendants of Mahli
the son of Levi son of Israel. This man was Sherebiah, who was
accompanied by his sons and brothers, 18 men; 19 and
Hashabiah, along with Jeshaiiah from the descendants of Merari,
with his brothers and their sons, 20 men; 20 and some of the
temple servants that David and his officials had established for
the work of the Levites—220 of them. They were all designated
by name.

21 I called for a fast there by the Ahava Canal, so that we might
humble ourselves before our God and seek from him a safe
journey for us, our children, and all our property. 22 I was
embarrassed to request soldiers and horsemen from the king to
protect us from the enemy along the way, because we had said
to the king, "The good hand of our God is on everyone who is
seeking him, but his great anger is against everyone who

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

forsakes him.” 23 So we fasted and prayed to our God about this, and he answered us.

24 Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests, together with Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers, 25 and I weighed out to them the silver, the gold, and the vessels intended for the temple of our God—items that the king, his advisers, his officials, and all Israel who were present had contributed. 26 I weighed out to them: 650 talents of silver, silver vessels worth 100 talents, 100 talents of gold, 27 20 gold bowls worth 1,000 darics, and 2 exquisite vessels of gleaming bronze, as valuable as gold. 28 Then I said to them, “You are holy to the Lord, just as these vessels are holy. The silver and the gold are a voluntary offering to the Lord, the God of your fathers. 29 Be careful with them and protect them, until you weigh them out before the leading priests and the Levites and the family leaders of Israel in Jerusalem, in the storerooms of the temple of the Lord.

30 Then the priests and the Levites took charge of the silver, the gold, and the vessels that had been weighed out, to transport them to Jerusalem to the temple of our God.

31 On the twelfth day of the first month we began traveling from the Ahava Canal to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from our enemies and from bandits along the way. 32 So we came to Jerusalem, and we stayed there for three days. 33 On the fourth day we weighed out the silver, the gold, and the vessels in the house of our God into the care of Meremoth son of Uriah, the priest, and Eleazar son of Phinehas, who were accompanied by Jozabad son of Jeshua and Noadiah son of Binnui, who were Levites.

34 Everything was verified by number and by weight, and the total weight was written down at that time.

35 The exiles who were returning from the captivity offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel—twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven male lambs, along with twelve male goats as a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering to the Lord. 36 Then they presented the decrees of the king to the king’s satraps and to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, who assisted the people and the temple of God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

—

EVENING PRAYER

Be present,
O merciful God,
and protect us through the hours of
the night,

so that we who are wearied
by the changes
and chances of this life
may rest
in your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

HEBREWS 8-10

8 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, no one would have looked for a second one. 8 But showing its fault, God says to them,

“Look, the days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will complete a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.

9 “It will not be like the covenant that I made with their fathers,
on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of
Egypt, because they did not continue in my covenant and I had
no regard for them, says the Lord.

10 “For this is the covenant that I will establish with the house
of Israel after those days, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds and I will inscribe them on their
hearts. And I will be their God and they will be my people.

11 “And there will be no need at all for each one
to teach his countryman or each one to teach
his brother saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ since they will all
know me, from the least to the greatest.

12 “For I will be merciful toward their evil deeds,
and their sins I will remember no longer.”

13 When he speaks of a new covenant, he makes the first
obsolete. Now what is growing obsolete and aging is about to
disappear.

9 Now the first covenant, in fact, had regulations for worship
and its earthly sanctuary. ... 6 So with these things prepared like
this, the priests enter continually into the outer tent as they
perform their duties. 7 But only the high priest enters once a
year into the inner tent, and not without blood that he offers for
himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

...

10 For the law possesses a shadow of the good things to
come but not the reality itself, and is therefore completely
unable, by the same sacrifices offered continually, year after
year, to perfect those who come to worship. 2 For otherwise
would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers
would have been purified once for all and so have no further
consciousness of sin? 3 But in those sacrifices there is a
reminder of sins year after year. 4 For it is impossible for the

blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 So when he came into the world, he said,

LISTEN

Boldly I Approach

-Rend Collective

Joy

-Rend Collective

We Believe

-The Worship Initiative

Stay With Us

-National Lutheran Choir

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me.

6 “Whole burnt offerings and sin-offerings
you took no delight in.

7 “Then I said, ‘Here I am: I have come—
it is written of me in the scroll of the book—
to do your will, O God.’”

8 When he says above, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sin-offerings you did not desire nor did you take delight in them” (which are offered according to the law), 9 then he says, “Here I am: I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first to establish the second. 10 By his will we have been made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest stands day after day serving and offering the same sacrifices again and again—sacrifices that can never take away sins. 12 But when this priest had offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 where he is now waiting until his enemies are made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by one offering he has perfected for all time those who are made holy. 15 And the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us, for after saying, 16 “This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord. I will put my laws on their hearts and I will inscribe them on their minds,” 17 then he says, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no longer.” 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the fresh and living way that he inaugurated for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in the assurance that faith brings, because we have had our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. 23 And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for the one who made the promise is trustworthy. 24 And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, 25 not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near.

Crucifixion

-Kim Young Gil, 1991

<https://artandtheology.org/tag/kim-young-gil/>

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Prayer & Response

Scripture readings, prayers, and audio recordings compiled by Andrea Brown with cover art AI generated by Andrea Brown x Pikaso, 2024. proclaimministries.com

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Prayer & Response

PSALM 130

From the deep water I cry out to you, O Lord.

2 O Lord, listen to me.

Pay attention to my plea for mercy.

3 If you, O Lord, were to keep track of sins,

O Lord, who could stand before you?

4 But you are willing to forgive,
so that you might be honored.

5 I rely on the Lord.

I rely on him with my whole being;

I wait for his assuring word.

6 I yearn for the Lord,

more than watchmen do for the morning,
yes, more than watchmen do for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the Lord,

for the Lord exhibits loyal love,
and is more than willing to deliver.

8 He will deliver Israel
from all their sins.

MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall shew forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.

O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

Amen.

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,
you stretched out your arms of love
on the hard wood of the Cross
that everyone might come
within the reach
of your saving embrace:

So clothe us in your Spirit
that we,
reaching forth our hands in love,
may bring those
who do not know you
to the knowledge and love of you;
for the honor
of your Name.

Amen.

EZRA 9-10

9 Now when these things had been completed, the leaders approached me and said, "The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not separated themselves from the local residents who practice detestable things similar to those of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. 2 Indeed, they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has become intermingled with the local residents. Worse still, the leaders and the officials have been at the forefront of all this unfaithfulness!"

3 When I heard this report, I tore my tunic and my robe and ripped out some of the hair from my head and beard. Then I sat

CONFESSION

Father in heaven,
we thank you for the freedom
you have given us
through the life, death
and resurrection of your Son.

But we confess today that we often
live like slaves.

Instead of
living like you delight in us,
we avoid you in shame and guilt.

Instead of
receiving your favor as a gift,
we try to earn it with our efforts.

Instead of
accepting your freedom,
we prefer our chains.

Instead of
pursuing your purposes, we cling
to our short-sighted agendas.

Forgive us. Embrace us.
Cleanse us. Heal us.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips
tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free
from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future
in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more
in your likeness and image,

through Jesus Christ,
the light of the world.

Amen.

down, quite devastated. 4 Everyone who held the words of the God of Israel in awe gathered around me because of the unfaithful acts of the people of the exile. Devastated, I continued to sit there until the evening offering.

5 At the time of the evening offering I got up from my self-abasement, with my tunic and robe torn, and then dropped to my knees and spread my hands to the Lord my God. 6 I prayed: "O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face to you, my God! For our iniquities have climbed higher than our heads, and our guilt extends to the heavens. 7 From the days of our fathers until this very day our guilt has been great. Because of our iniquities we, along with our kings and priests, have been delivered over by the local kings to sword, captivity, plunder, and embarrassment—right up to the present time.

8 "But now briefly we have received mercy from the Lord our God, in that he has left us a remnant and has given us a secure position in his holy place. Thus our God has enlightened our eyes and has given us a little relief in our time of servitude.

9 Although we are slaves, our God has not abandoned us in our servitude. He has extended kindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, in that he has revived us to restore the temple of our God and to raise up its ruins and to give us a protective wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

10 "And now what are we able to say after this, our God? For we have forsaken your commandments 11 which you commanded us through your servants the prophets with these words: 'The land that you are entering to possess is a land defiled by the impurities of the local residents! With their abominations they have filled it from one end to the other with their filthiness. 12 Therefore do not give your daughters in marriage to their sons, and do not take their daughters in marriage for your sons. Do not ever seek their peace or welfare, so that you may be strong and may eat the good of the land and may leave it as an inheritance for your children forever.'

13 "Everything that has happened to us has come about because of our wicked actions and our great guilt. Even so, our God, you have exercised restraint toward our iniquities and have given us a remnant such as this. 14 Shall we once again break your commandments and intermarry with these abominable peoples? Would you not be so angered by us that you would wipe us out, with no survivor or remnant? 15 O Lord God of Israel, you are righteous, for we are left as a remnant

AFTERNOON PRAYER

*God of all creation,
full of love and abounding in mercy;
May the whole earth
be filled with your glory.*

*Lord, bless and guide
all ministers of your church;
Clothe them in righteousness
and grant them wisdom.*

*Direct the leaders of our nation;
That they may act in accordance
with your kingdom.*

*Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,
To love the things that you love*

*May we proclaim your light
In every place where there is darkness.*

*May we proclaim
your Holy Name
In every aspect of our lives.*

*Create in us clean hearts,
O God;
And renew a right spirit
within us.*

*Grant us your peace;
For only in you
can we live in safety.*

*We pray for those in sickness,
grief, persecution, bondage,
fear, or loneliness.*

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer our own prayers:

this day. Indeed, we stand before you in our guilt. However, because of this guilt no one can really stand before you.”

10 While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself to the ground before the temple of God, a very large crowd of Israelites—men, women, and children alike—gathered around him. The people wept loudly. **2** Then Shecaniah son of Jehiel, from the descendants of Elam, addressed Ezra:

“We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the local peoples. Nonetheless, there is still hope for Israel in this regard. **3** Therefore let us enact a covenant with our God to send away all these women and their offspring, in keeping with your counsel, my lord, and that of those who respect the commandments of our God. And let it be done according to the law. **4** Get up, for this matter concerns you. We are with you, so be strong and act decisively!”

5 So Ezra got up and made the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take an oath to carry out this plan. And they all took a solemn oath. **6** Then Ezra got up from in front of the temple of God and went to the room of Jehohanan son of Eliashib. While he stayed there, he did not eat food or drink water, for he was in mourning over the infidelity of the exiles.

7 A proclamation was circulated throughout Judah and Jerusalem that all the exiles were to be assembled in Jerusalem. **8** Everyone who did not come within three days would thereby forfeit all his property, in keeping with the counsel of the officials and the elders. Furthermore, he himself would be excluded from the assembly of the exiles.

9 All the men of Judah and Benjamin were gathered in Jerusalem within the three days. (It was in the ninth month, on the twentieth day of that month.) All the people sat in the square at the temple of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the rains.

10 Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, “You have behaved in an unfaithful manner by taking foreign wives! This has contributed to the guilt of Israel. **11** Now give praise to the Lord God of your fathers, and do his will. Separate yourselves from the local residents and from these foreign wives.”

12 All the assembly replied in a loud voice: “We will do just as

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Be our light
in the darkness, O Lord,

and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils
and dangers of this night;

for the love of your only Son,
our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

you have said! 13 However, the people are numerous and it is the rainy season. We are unable to stand here outside. Furthermore, this business cannot be resolved in a day or two, for we have sinned greatly in this matter. 14 Let our leaders take steps on behalf of all the assembly. Let all those in our towns who have married foreign women come at an appointed time, and with them the elders of each town and its judges, until the hot anger of our God is turned away from us in this matter." 15 Only Jonathan son of Asahel and Jahzeiah son of Tikvah were against this, assisted by Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite. 16 So the exiles proceeded accordingly. Ezra the priest separated out by name men who were leaders in their family groups. They sat down to consider this matter on the first day of the tenth month, 17 and on the first day of the first month they finished considering all the men who had married foreign wives.

18 It was determined that from the descendants of the priests, the following had taken foreign wives: from the descendants of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and his brothers: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah. 19 (They gave their word to send away their wives; their guilt offering was a ram from the flock for their guilt.) 20 From the descendants of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah. 21 From the descendants of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uziah. 22 From the descendants of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasa. 23 From the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (also known as Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer. 24 From the singers: Eliashib. From the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri. 25 From the Israelites: from the descendants of Parosh: Ramiah, Izziah, Malkijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malkijah, and Benaiah. 26 From the descendants of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah. 27 From the descendants of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza. 28 From the descendants of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai. 29 From the descendants of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth. 30 From the descendants of Pahath Moab: Adna, Kelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh. 31 From the descendants of Harim: Eliezer, Ishijah, Malkijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, 32 Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah. 33 From the descendants of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei. 34 From the descendants of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel,

LISTEN

I Will Wait For You (Psalm 130)

-Shane and Shane

Thank You Jesus

-Charity Gayle

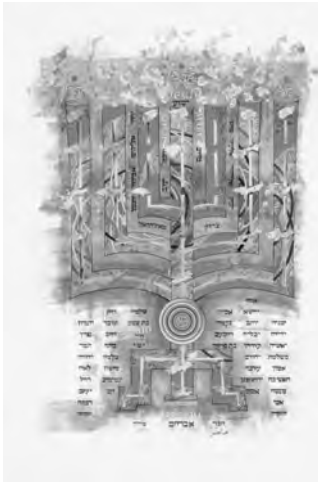
Tears Of The Saints

-Leeland

Lord I Need You

-Matt Maher

PONDER



Genealogy of Christ

-Donald Jackson, 2002

<https://sites.up.edu/saintjohnsbible/genealogy-of-christ/>

LOVE

-Mary Carolyn Davies, 1918

<https://allpoetry.com/poem/8621199-Love-by-Roy-Croft>

*I love you, not only for what you are,
But for what I am When I am with you.*

...
*I love you because you
are helping me to make
of the lumber of my life*

*Not a tavern
But a temple;*

...
*You have done it
Without a touch,
Without a word,
Without a sign.*

*You have done it
By being yourself.*

35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Keluhi, 36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, 37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasu. 38 From the descendants of Binnui: Shimei, 39 Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah, 40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, 41 Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah, 42 Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph. 43 From the descendants of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel, and Benaiah. 44 All these had taken foreign wives, and some of them also had children by these women.

ROMANS 2-3

2 2 Therefore you are without excuse, whoever you are, when you judge someone else. For on whatever grounds you judge another, you condemn yourself, because you who judge practice the same things. ...4 Or do you have contempt for the wealth of his kindness, forbearance, and patience, and yet do not know that God's kindness leads you to repentance? 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourselves in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed! ...

21 therefore you who teach someone else, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who tell others not to commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law dishonor God by transgressing the law! 24 For just as it is written, "the name of God is being blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." ...

3 20 For no one is declared righteous before him by the works of the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God (although it is attested by the law and the prophets) has been disclosed— 22 namely, the righteousness of God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. 24 But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. 25 God publicly displayed him at his death as the mercy seat accessible through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness, because God in his forbearance had passed over the sins previously committed. 26 This was also to demonstrate his righteousness in the present time, so that he would be just and the justifier of the one who lives because of Jesus' faithfulness.

Daily Reflection

Begin by **summarizing** what you read in any way you would like: draw, outline, paraphrase, etc. Continue by **reflecting** on the themes we are tracing: God's presence, people, and promises.

Daily Prayer

*try writing a collect

Reflect

What stood out to you from the reading this week?

Describe any thoughts or feelings you had while reading, praying, listening, or looking at art this week.

What did you noticed about God, yourself, and the world?

What are you curious about? What questions, ideas, or texts would you like to explore more?

Respond

What would it look like for you to respond? Remember, response is more than 'application.' It can be almost anything including worship, belief, confession, emotion, and action.

