

Worship Notes for May 24, 2020
Orrville Trinity UMC

Greetings! Since we're unable to gather in-person this weekend, here are some resources to make it easier for you to worship at home with your family or small group. Please be sure to practice physical distancing! Blessings in our RISEN Lord, Jesus Christ! Pastor David

Opening Prayer (based on Psalm 29:2)

O God, whose holiness is not limited to grand cathedrals or saintly persons, spectacular mountains or mountain-moving leaders; O God, whose holiness is often discovered in simple everyday places and simple everyday folk, plant Your holiness in this place, in us now. Grow us this hour, that we might flower, right where we are, with the beauty of Your holiness. Through Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES – Psalms 26-29, 46

Psalm 26 (Common English Bible, CEB)

Establish justice for me, LORD,

because I have walked with integrity.

I've trusted the LORD without wavering.

² *Examine me, LORD; put me to the test!*

Purify my mind and my heart.

³ *Because your faithful love is right in front of me—*

I walk in your truth!

⁴ *I don't spend time with people up to no good;*

I don't keep company with liars.

⁵ *I detest the company of evildoers,*

and I don't sit with wicked people.

⁶ *I wash my hands—they are innocent!*

I walk all around your altar, LORD,

⁷ *proclaiming out loud my thanks,*

declaring all your wonderful deeds!

⁸ *I love the beauty of your house, LORD;*

I love the place where your glory resides.

⁹ *Don't gather me up with the sinners,*

taking my life along with violent people

¹⁰ *in whose hands are evil schemes,*

whose strong hands are full of bribes.

¹¹ *But me? I walk with integrity.*

Save me! Have mercy on me!

¹² *My feet now stand on level ground.*

I will bless the LORD in the great congregation.

Psalm 27 (Common English Bible, CEB)

The LORD is my light and my salvation.

Should I fear anyone?

The LORD is a fortress protecting my life.

Should I be frightened of anything?

² *When evildoers come at me trying to eat me up—*

*it's they, my foes and my enemies,
who stumble and fall!*

³ *If an army camps against me,
my heart won't be afraid.*

*If war comes up against me,
I will continue to trust in this:*

⁴ *I have asked one thing from the LORD—
it's all I seek:*

*to live in the LORD's house all the days of my life,
seeing the LORD's beauty
and constantly adoring his temple.*

⁵ *Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling
during troubling times;*

*he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent;
he will set me up high, safe on a rock.*

⁶ *Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding me,
and I will offer sacrifices in God's tent—*

*sacrifices with shouts of joy!
I will sing and praise the LORD.*

⁷ *LORD, listen to my voice when I cry out—
have mercy on me and answer me!*

⁸ *Come, my heart says, seek God's face.
LORD, I do seek your face!*

⁹ *Please don't hide it from me!
Don't push your servant aside angrily—
you have been my help!*

*God who saves me,
don't neglect me!*

Don't leave me all alone!

¹⁰ *Even if my father and mother left me all alone,
the LORD would take me in.*

¹¹ *LORD, teach me your way;
because of my opponents, lead me on a good path.*

¹² *Don't give me over to the desires of my enemies,
because false witnesses and violent accusers
have taken their stand against me.*

¹³ *But I have sure faith
that I will experience the LORD's goodness
in the land of the living!*

¹⁴ *Hope in the LORD!
Be strong! Let your heart take courage!
Hope in the LORD!*

Psalm 28 (Common English Bible, CEB)

I cry out to you, LORD.

You are my rock; don't refuse to hear me.

If you won't talk to me,

I'll be just like those going down to the pit.

² *Listen to my request for mercy when I cry out to you,
when I lift up my hands to your holy inner sanctuary.*

³ *Don't drag me off with the wicked and those who do evil;
the type who talk nice to their friends
while evil thoughts are in their hearts!*

⁴ *Pay them back for what they've done!
Pay them back for their evil deeds!
Pay them back for their handiwork!
Give back to them exactly what they deserve!*

⁵ *Because they have no regard for what the LORD has done,
no regard for his handiwork,
God will tear them down and never rebuild!*

⁶ *Bless the LORD
because he has listened to my request for mercy!*

⁷ *The LORD is my strength and my shield.*

My heart trusts him.

*I was helped, my heart rejoiced,
and I thank him with my song.*

⁸ *The LORD is his people's strength;*

he is a fortress of protection for his anointed one.

⁹ *Save your people, God!*

Bless your possession!

Shepherd them and carry them for all time!

Psalm 29 (Common English Bible, CEB)

You, divine beings! Give to the LORD—

give to the LORD glory and power!

² *Give to the LORD the glory due his name!*

Bow down to the LORD in holy splendor!

³ *The LORD's voice is over the waters;*

the glorious God thunders;

the LORD is over the mighty waters.

⁴ *The LORD's voice is strong;*

the LORD's voice is majestic.

⁵ *The LORD's voice breaks cedar trees—*

yes, the LORD shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ *He makes Lebanon jump around like a young bull,*

makes Sirion jump around like a young wild ox.

⁷ *The LORD's voice unleashes fiery flames;*

⁸ *the LORD's voice shakes the wilderness—*

yes, the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ *The LORD's voice convulses the oaks,*

strips the forests bare,

but in his temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"

¹⁰ *The LORD sits enthroned over the floodwaters;*

the LORD sits enthroned—king forever!

¹¹ *Let the LORD give strength to his people!*

Let the LORD bless his people with peace!

Psalm 46 (CEB)

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.*

² *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*

³ *though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.^[c]*

⁴ *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

⁵ *God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.*

⁶ *Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

⁷ *The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

⁸ *Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.*

⁹ *He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.*

*He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields^[d] with fire.*

¹⁰ *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

¹¹ *The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

PRAYER (inspired by Psalm 27)

Light-giving, salvation-making God, we have staked our living and our dying and our being raised to new life on your steadfast love and faithfulness. You have promised to hide us in your shelter in the day of trouble. You have promised to set us high on a rock, above those powers and forces that batter us, that tempt us, that work against us.

We have sought your presence here, listening for your Word: your Word that gives life; your Word that heals the wounded heart; your Word that speaks truth. Teach us your Way, O Lord Jesus. Lead us on a well-lighted path.

In the times when you are silent, grant us the courage to wait, trusting in your grace that brings your resurrection power to our dead ends. You are doing a 'new thing' among us. Though, it is hard to see at times what that 'new thing' is. We bring to you our grieving over what is being lost, our fears about what the future might hold, our desire to love and serve you. By the power of your Holy Spirit, you are refining us, purifying our discipleship, pulling us into following Jesus in this new world.

Grant us mercy and grace to trust you more deeply, for the only secure place is with you, our light and our salvation, the stronghold of our life. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus, the first-born of your new creation, our hope, our life.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER (Notes adapted from Brian D. Russell's "The Psalms – Book 1")

Psalm 26

- When trouble comes, God's people respond with faithful living and put their hope in God.
- What role does our faithfulness play in prayer?

Psalm 27

- During times of crisis, God's people turn away from fear and wait expectantly for God to act.
- Describe the tension between the psalmist's faith and his need to ask the Lord for help. What does this tension teach us about the role of prayer?

Psalm 28

- God provides security for ALL God's people.
- What images or metaphors for God do you find most meaningful in this psalm? How do these communicate the security that we find in the Lord?

Psalm 29

- Praise orients us to the power, greatness, and prestige of the Lord. Everyone everywhere will grant the Lord the honor and glory due his name.
- What language does Psalm 29 use to praise the Lord? What does Psalm 29 teach you about the worship and praise of the Lord?