

Worship Notes for May 17, 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

Loving Shepherd,
you know our names;
you care for us.
When we face darkness and death,
walk beside us.
When we hunger for your love,
fill us with your presence.
When we are fearful,
feed us at your table.
May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy
all the days of our lives. Amen.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Psalm 22 (Common English Bible, CEB)

*My God! My God,
why have you left me all alone?
Why are you so far from saving me—
so far from my anguished groans?*

² *My God, I cry out during the day,
but you don't answer;
even at nighttime I don't stop.*

³ *You are the holy one, enthroned.
You are Israel's praise.*

⁴ *Our ancestors trusted you—
they trusted you and you rescued them;*

⁵ *they cried out to you and they were saved;
they trusted you and they weren't ashamed.*

⁶ *But I'm just a worm, less than human;
insulted by one person, despised by another.*

⁷ *All who see me make fun of me—*

they gape, shaking their heads:

⁸ *“He committed himself to the LORD,
so let God rescue him;
let God deliver him
because God likes him so much.”*

⁹ *But you are the one who pulled me from the womb,
placing me safely at my mother’s breasts.*

¹⁰ *I was thrown on you from birth;
you’ve been my God
since I was in my mother’s womb.*

¹¹ *Please don’t be far from me,
because trouble is near
and there’s no one to help.*

¹² *Many bulls surround me;
mighty bulls from Bashan encircle me.*

¹³ *They open their mouths at me
like a lion ripping and roaring!*

¹⁴ *I’m poured out like water.
All my bones have fallen apart.
My heart is like wax;
it melts inside me.*

¹⁵ *My strength is dried up
like a piece of broken pottery.*

*My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you’ve set me down in the dirt of death.*

¹⁶ *Dogs surround me;
a pack of evil people circle me like a lion—
oh, my poor hands and feet!*

¹⁷ *I can count all my bones!
Meanwhile, they just stare at me, watching me.*

¹⁸ *They divvy up my garments among themselves;
they cast lots for my clothes.*

¹⁹ *But you, LORD! Don’t be far away!
You are my strength!*

Come quick and help me!

²⁰ *Deliver me from the sword.
Deliver my life from the power of the dog.*

- ²¹ *Save me from the mouth of the lion.
From the horns of the wild oxen
you have answered me!*
- ²² *I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
I will praise you in the very center of the congregation!*
- ²³ *All of you who revere the LORD—praise him!
All of you who are Jacob's descendants—honor him!
All of you who are all Israel's offspring—
stand in awe of him!*
- ²⁴ *Because he didn't despise or detest
the suffering of the one who suffered—
he didn't hide his face from me.
No, he listened when I cried out to him for help.*
- ²⁵ *I offer praise in the great congregation
because of you;
I will fulfill my promises
in the presence of those who honor God.*
- ²⁶ *Let all those who are suffering eat and be full!
Let all who seek the LORD praise him!
I pray your hearts live forever!*
- ²⁷ *Every part of the earth
will remember and come back to the LORD;
every family among all the nations will worship you.*
- ²⁸ *Because the right to rule belongs to the LORD,
he rules all nations.*
- ²⁹ *Indeed, all the earth's powerful
will worship him;
all who are descending to the dust
will kneel before him;
my being also lives for him.*
- ³⁰ *Future descendants will serve him;
generations to come will be told about my Lord.*
- ³¹ *They will proclaim God's righteousness
to those not yet born,
telling them what God has done.*

Psalm 23 (Common English Bible, CEB)

The LORD is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

² *He lets me rest in grassy meadows;*

he leads me to restful waters;

³ *he keeps me alive.*

He guides me in proper paths

for the sake of his good name.

⁴ *Even when I walk through the darkest valley,*

I fear no danger because you are with me.

Your rod and your staff—

they protect me.

⁵ *You set a table for me*

right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil;

my cup is so full it spills over!

⁶ *Yes, goodness and faithful love*

will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the LORD's house

as long as I live.

PRAYER

Almighty God and Father, we do not come to talk with you this morning because we think we are so good and wonderful, but because you have been so good and wonderful to us—adopted us into your family and blessed us as your children.

Help us to cling to the promises you make to your family: to love us when we see only our selfishness and lack of love for you; to forgive us, because of everything Jesus did for us in his life of love and in his dying on the cross; and to give your family a share in the resurrection when their bodies are worn out and rest in dust and ashes.

We thank you for Jesus Christ our Lord, who walks out in front of us to lead your people safely through the difficult and trying times ahead. We marvel that he would turn his back on a big name for himself in his life on earth, and choose to go to the place of suffering and death, out of love for all people in the world. There he identified with all godly people who have called out in despair: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

May your Spirit help us to carry the cross for people in need of our loving concern, doing the best we can for their special needs without counting the cost to ourselves.

Bless all those who feel like giving up, those who feel they cannot take any more sickness and suffering, those who care for the sick, the dying, and those who grieve inwardly.

Bless our leaders who have big responsibilities to carry:

- the leaders of our country, including the president, Congress, as well as our governor and other state and local leaders
- the leaders of churches, including all bishops and superintendents
- the leaders of congregations, including our pastors, staff, and lay leadership.

Give us new strength by your Holy Spirit as Christ comes to us in his supper. Refresh us for the journey ahead, replenish our faith, and give us new confidence for the future. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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

Psalm 22:1-11

- Jesus truly identifies with us in our suffering and will lift us up to victory in the midst of our pain.
- How does Jesus' identification with our suffering shape how we understand and experience times of trial?

Psalm 22:12-21

- Our faith can sustain us through the darkest moments of life.
- How do verses 12-21 teach us to pray in the midst of our suffering?

Psalm 22:1-11

- God's raising of Jesus from the dead secures our future.
- What does Psalm 22:22-31 teach us about gratitude and giving thanks for God's victory?

Psalm 23:1

- Our Lord is a capable and faithful Shepherd who looks out for the best interests of the flock.
- What does it mean for you to pray, "The Lord is MY shepherd"? What does the imagery of a shepherd tell us about God?

Psalm 23:2-6

- God promises to guide us through hardship and darkness to a future of abundance.
- How would you live your life differently if you truly believed that an abundant and good future awaited you?