

**KGW11 to Mar 19**

March 13 Su Reading 72 — Psalm 27:1-14 — A Worthy Focus

*Of David.*

- 1 *The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold<sup>[fn]</sup> of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?*
- 2 *When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.*
- 3 *Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet<sup>[fn]</sup> I will be confident.*
- 4 *One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire<sup>[fn]</sup> in his temple.*
- 5 *For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.*
- 6 *And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.*
- 7 *Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!*
- 8 *You have said, "Seek<sup>[fn]</sup> my face."  
My heart says to you,  
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."<sup>[fn]</sup>*
- 9 *Hide not your face from me.  
Turn not your servant away in anger,  
O you who have been my help.  
Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!*
- 10 *For my father and my mother have forsaken me,  
but the LORD will take me in.*

- 11 *Teach me your way, O LORD,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.*
- 12 *Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they breathe out violence.*
- 13 *I believe that I shall look<sup>[fn]</sup> upon the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!*
- 14 *Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!*

**ESV Footnotes**

(27:1) Or *refuge*

(27:3) Or *in this*

(27:4) Or *meditate*

(27:8) The command (*seek*) is addressed to more than one person

(27:8) The meaning of the Hebrew verse is uncertain

(27:13) Other Hebrew manuscripts *Oh! Had I not believed that I would look*

**God’s Beauty and Goodness** — The context of this psalm is one of danger. For many periods in David’s life, he was threatened by people who wanted to kill him. When we are in a dangerous situation, our tendency is to focus on the problem, but this psalm reminds us that we should place our attention on God, who is able to deliver us. The Lord has commanded us to do exactly that: “*Seek my face*” (vs. 8). David responded with two expressions, showing his intention to obey. The first thing he would “*seek after*” was “*to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD*” (v. 4). God’s “*beauty*” points us to the attractiveness of His perfection—His glorious majesty and infinite love. This is not speaking of physical beauty because God is an invisible spirit. Isaiah also described the anticipated Messiah as having “*no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him*” (Isa. 53:2). God’s beauty has to do with His character. David’s second statement about seeking after God was, “*I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD*” (Ps. 27:13). God’s “*goodness*” points not only to the quality of His character, but also to what He does—He does good. To “*seek after*” God and to “*gaze upon*” Him includes both meditation and worship. We need to carefully consider ways in which God is beautiful and good. Think about them and express your appreciation to Him in worship as you sing [Lord You Are Good - YouTube](#).

Lord, You are good  
and Your mercy endureth forever.  
Lord, You are good  
and Your mercy endureth forever.  
People from every nation and tongue  
from generation to generation...

We worship you.  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.  
We worship you for who you are.

— Israel Houghton (b. 1971)

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<sup>[fn]</sup> *Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.*

- 1 *I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*
- 2 *My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.*
- 3 *Oh, magnify the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt his name together!*
  
- 4 *I sought the LORD, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.*
- 5 *Those who look to him are radiant,  
and their faces shall never be ashamed.*
- 6 *This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him  
and saved him out of all his troubles.*
- 7 *The angel of the LORD encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.*
  
- 8 *Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*
- 9 *Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints,  
for those who fear him have no lack!*
- 10 *The young lions suffer want and hunger;  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.*
  
- 11 *Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*
- 12 *What man is there who desires life  
and loves many days, that he may see good?*
- 13 *Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.*
- 14 *Turn away from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.*
  
- 15 *The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous  
and his ears toward their cry.*
- 16 *The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.*
- 17 *When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.*
- 18 *The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.*
  
- 19 *Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.*
- 20 *He keeps all his bones;  
not one of them is broken.*
- 21 *Affliction will slay the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.*

22 *The LORD redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.*

**ESV Footnote**

(34:1) This psalm is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet

**Delivered by Fear** — Four times in this psalm, it is said that God “*delivers*” (vv. 4, 7, 17, 19), and also four times it says that deliverance comes to those who “*fear*” Him (vv. 7, 9, 11). That is not the fear of dread (v. 4), but the fear that respects and relies on God. Do you have some need today from which you want to be delivered? Fear the Lord! He answers prayer today as well as He did for David, who said, “*I sought the LORD, and he answered me*” (v. 4), and “*This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him*” (v. 6). Do you feel inadequate in this area of your prayer life? All of us probably feel the need to grow. David gave us two ways to develop our trust that God would deliver us. The first is to “*taste and see that the LORD is good*” (v. 8). “Tasting” is taking baby steps. We grow in our trust gradually through experiencing and learning about God’s goodness. He *wants* to help us. Although we may no longer be babies, David still addressed us as those who are young in faith and need to grow: “*Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD*” (v. 11). We need both tasting and teaching, experience and instruction.

**Meditation:** Did you notice a reappearance of “*The angel of the LORD*”? (v. 7). He is a protecting hedge around us. He “*encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.*” He is both stable (“*encamps*”) and active (“*delivers*”). Rest in your protection! Rejoice in your deliverance!

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March 15 Tu Reading 74 — Psalm 52:1-9 — God’s Timeless Love

*To the choirmaster. A Maskil<sup>[fn]</sup> of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul, “David has come to the house of Ahimelech.”*

- 1 *Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?  
The steadfast love of God endures all the day.*
- 2 *Your tongue plots destruction,  
like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.*
- 3 *You love evil more than good,  
and lying more than speaking what is right. Selah*
- 4 *You love all words that devour,  
O deceitful tongue.*
- 5 *But God will break you down forever;  
he will snatch and tear you from your tent;  
he will uproot you from the land of the living. Selah*
- 6 *The righteous shall see and fear,  
and shall laugh at him, saying,*
- 7 *“See the man who would not make  
God his refuge,  
but trusted in the abundance of his riches  
and sought refuge in his own destruction!”<sup>[fn]</sup>*
- 8 *But I am like a green olive tree  
in the house of God.  
I trust in the steadfast love of God  
forever and ever.*

9 *I will thank you forever,  
because you have done it.  
I will wait for your name, for it is good,  
in the presence of the godly.*

**ESV Footnotes**

(52:1) Probably a musical or liturgical term

(52:7) Or *in his work of destruction*

**Lasting Love** — Although God’s steadfast love is mentioned many times in the Bible, this psalm is the only place where the phrase, “*the steadfast love of God*,” is used, and it is used twice (vv. 1, 8). The English word “steadfast” carries an implication of time, and that idea is expressed in both places it is used in this psalm. In verse 1, “*The steadfast love of God endures all the day.*” Throughout the day, it remains. But in vs. 8, the time element is greatly extended: “*I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.*” While the wickedness of a man will be limited (vv. 1-7), the righteous man will experience God’s steadfast love forever (vv. 8-9). Do you ever feel like you are not loved by God? It is not true because His steadfast love “*endures all the day ... [and] forever and ever.*” Do you feel like you have stepped out of the love of God when you have fallen into sin? Look at those first four verses again; it is all about sin, yet “*the steadfast love of God*” is still there—the only positive statement in that section. Then, look at the context of the last two verses; it is all about security, and “*the steadfast love of God*” is featured there as well. God’s steadfast love is daily and eternal, throughout our sin-stained earthly life and our heavenly destiny.

[Unfailing Love - YouTube](#)

Praise You God of earth and sky.  
How beautiful is Your unfailing love,  
Unfailing love.  
And You never change  
God, You remain  
The holy one,  
My unfailing love,  
Unfailing love.  
—Chris Tomlin (b. 1972)

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March 16 W Reading 75 — Psalm 140:1-13 — God Who Answers Prayer

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.*

- 1 *Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men;  
preserve me from violent men,*
- 2 *who plan evil things in their heart  
and stir up wars continually.*
- 3 *They make their tongue sharp as a serpent’s,  
and under their lips is the venom of asps. Selah*
- 4 *Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;  
preserve me from violent men,  
who have planned to trip up my feet.*

- 5 *The arrogant have hidden a trap for me,  
and with cords they have spread a net;<sup>[fn]</sup>  
beside the way they have set snares for me. Selah*
- 6 *I say to the LORD, You are my God;  
give ear to the voice of my pleas for mercy, O LORD!*
- 7 *O LORD, my Lord, the strength of my salvation,  
you have covered my head in the day of battle.*
- 8 *Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;  
do not further their<sup>[fn]</sup> evil plot, or they will be exalted! Selah*
- 9 *As for the head of those who surround me,  
let the mischief of their lips overwhelm them!*
- 10 *Let burning coals fall upon them!  
Let them be cast into fire,  
into miry pits, no more to rise!*
- 11 *Let not the slanderer be established in the land;  
let evil hunt down the violent man speedily!*
- 12 *I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted,  
and will execute justice for the needy.*
- 13 *Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name;  
the upright shall dwell in your presence.*

#### ESV Footnotes

(140:5) Or *they have spread cords as a net*

(140:8) Hebrew *his*

**Confidence in Prayer** — David was in trouble and he came to God in prayer. He asked for God’s protection and for the defeat of his enemies, but there are two pairs of verses in his prayer that reveal something about David’s attitude toward God. He called Yahweh, “*my God*” (v. 6), suggesting a *personal* relationship, and “*my salvation*” (v. 7), adding a *saving* relationship. When we go to God in prayer for some need, we should remember that we are making a request to the One who knows and loves us, and the One who has saved us. We are a part of His family; He is our Father. The second pair of verses expresses the confidence David had in God: “*I know that the LORD will ...*” (v. 12). It anticipates a positive answer to prayer because of who God is and our relationship to Him. That confidence is extended in the next verse: “*Surely, the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence*” (v. 13). That is praying with faith: knowing who God is and knowing He will answer. When you pray today, ask God for something that you know a loving, powerful, and willing Father would provide for you.

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March 17 Th Reading 76 — Psalm 17:1-15 — God of Refuge

*A Prayer of David.*

- 1 *Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry!  
Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit!*
- 2 *From your presence let my vindication come!  
Let your eyes behold the right!*
- 3 *You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night,*

- you have tested me, and you will find nothing;  
I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.*
- 4 *With regard to the works of man, by the word of your lips  
I have avoided the ways of the violent.*
- 5 *My steps have held fast to your paths;  
my feet have not slipped.*
- 6 *I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
incline your ear to me; hear my words.*
- 7 *Wondrously show<sup>[fn]</sup> your steadfast love,  
O Savior of those who seek refuge  
from their adversaries at your right hand.*
- 8 *Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of your wings,*
- 9 *from the wicked who do me violence,  
my deadly enemies who surround me.*
- 10 *They close their hearts to pity;  
with their mouths they speak arrogantly.*
- 11 *They have now surrounded our steps;  
they set their eyes to cast us to the ground.*
- 12 *He is like a lion eager to tear,  
as a young lion lurking in ambush.*
- 13 *Arise, O LORD! Confront him, subdue him!  
Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword,*
- 14 *from men by your hand, O LORD,  
from men of the world whose portion is in this life.<sup>[fn]</sup>  
You fill their womb with treasure;<sup>[fn]</sup>  
they are satisfied with children,  
and they leave their abundance to their infants.*
- 15 *As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;  
when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.*

#### **ESV Footnotes**

(17:7) Or *Distinguish me by*

(17:14) Or *from men whose portion in life is of the world*

(17:14) Or *As for your treasured ones, you fill their womb*

**Savior of Refuge** — God is both a rescuer and refuge for us. David called God a “*Savior of those who seek refuge*” (v. 7). A savior is one who rescues from disaster. David faced real disaster from “*the wicked who do me violence ... as a young lion lurking in ambush*” (vv. 9, 12). What he faced was bigger than what he could handle. Do you sometimes feel like that? Actually, it is partly good news because that is when God may step in to do what we cannot do. The Apostle Paul put it this way: “*I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong*” (2 Cor. 12:10). After God rescues us by His power, He protects us by His love. David prayed, “*...hide me in the shadow of your wings*” (v. 8). That is refuge. It completes a graphic picture of protection after rescue. The reason God does this is revealed in the same verse; David said that it is because he was “*the apple of your [God’s] eye.*” That expression is used four times in Scripture. In Deut. 32:10 and Zech. 2:8, it refers to God’s people, Israel. In Prov. 7:2, it is God’s

teaching. In Ps. 17:8, it is personal. Is there any part of your body that you instinctively protect more than your eye? We do that because it is precious to us. That is how we are to God; He rescues us when we are threatened and He is our refuge from further harm.

God is Our Refuge – (piano and words)

God is our refuge and our strength,  
our ever-present aid.  
And, therefore, though the earth remove,  
we will not be afraid;  
Though hills amidst the sea be cast,  
'though foaming waters roar,  
Yea, though the mighty billows shake  
the mountains on the shore.

— Gottfried W. Fink (1842)

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March 18 F Reading 77 — Psalm 35:17-28 — God Delights in Our Welfare

*Of David...*

- 17 *How long, O Lord, will you look on?  
Rescue me from their destruction,  
my precious life from the lions!*
- 18 *I will thank you in the great congregation;  
in the mighty throng I will praise you.*
- 19 *Let not those rejoice over me  
who are wrongfully my foes,  
and let not those wink the eye  
who hate me without cause.*
- 20 *For they do not speak peace,  
but against those who are quiet in the land  
they devise words of deceit.*
- 21 *They open wide their mouths against me;  
they say, "Aha, Aha!  
Our eyes have seen it!"*
- 22 *You have seen, O LORD; be not silent!  
O Lord, be not far from me!*
- 23 *Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication,  
for my cause, my God and my Lord!*
- 24 *Vindicate me, O LORD, my God,  
according to your righteousness,  
and let them not rejoice over me!*
- 25 *Let them not say in their hearts,  
"Aha, our heart's desire!"  
Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up."*
- 26 *Let them be put to shame and disappointed altogether*



*who rejoice at my calamity!  
Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor  
who magnify themselves against me!*

- 27 *Let those who delight in my righteousness  
shout for joy and be glad  
and say evermore,  
“Great is the LORD,  
who delights in the welfare of his servant!”*
- 28 *Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness  
and of your praise all the day long.*

**Waiting for Vindication** — David has two basic prayer requests in this psalm: “Rescue me...!” (v. 17) and “Vindicate me...!” (v. 24). To vindicate means to show that one is not guilty; to clear of blame. David claimed to be innocent, saying that his enemies “are wrongfully my foes, and ... hate me without cause” (v. 19). That reminds us of Jesus, who also said, “They hated me without cause” (John 15:24). Christ was *absolutely* innocent; at best, we are *relatively* innocent. Jesus said, “If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:20). The Father allowed Jesus to endure a period of severe suffering, ending in death. He could have been delivered but He was suffering for a purpose—our salvation. Why are we suffering? We might not understand the reason, but we can be sure of one important thing about God that today’s psalm tells us: “Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant!” (v. 27). God loves us. He wants what is best for us, but He is developing us gradually, and sometimes training is hard. Waiting for relief or rescue is difficult, but we must keep in mind that our overall welfare is His desire.

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March 19 Sa Reading 78 — Psalm 54:1-7 — God is My Helper

*To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil<sup>[fn]</sup> of David, when the Ziphites went and told Saul, “Is not David hiding among us?”*

- 1 *O God, save me by your name,  
and vindicate me by your might.*
- 2 *O God, hear my prayer;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.*
- 3 *For strangers<sup>[fn]</sup> have risen against me;  
ruthless men seek my life;  
they do not set God before themselves. Selah*
- 4 *Behold, God is my helper;  
the Lord is the upholder of my life.*
- 5 *He will return the evil to my enemies;  
in your faithfulness put an end to them.*
- 6 *With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;  
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.*
- 7 *For he has delivered me from every trouble,  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.*

#### **ESV Footnotes**

(54:1) Probably a musical or liturgical term

(54:3) Some Hebrew manuscripts and Targum *insolent men* (compare Psalm 86:14)

**Prayer of Faith** — David was in trouble, running from King Saul, who wanted to kill him. Fellow Judeans, the Ziphites, revealed his hiding place, so David turned to God in distressed prayer. There is nothing like desperation that will bring us to our knees. Although David asked God to save him (v. 1), there are several statements that indicate that he was praying with faith that God would answer his prayer. When he said, “*He will return the evil to my enemies*” (v. 5), the words “*He will...*” showed David’s faith. In faith, he also anticipated what he would do in response to God’s answer: “*I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD*” (v. 6). On what was his faith based? There were two things. First, was God’s character: “*...your name, O LORD, for it is good.*” His name, Yahweh, represented His goodness. The second basis for David’s prayer of faith was God’s faithfulness, His track record: “*For he has delivered me from every trouble*” (v. 7). God is good and God is faithful. Remember that when you find yourself in desperate prayer!

### [Great Is Thy Faithfulness - YouTube](#)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided—  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

—Thomas Chisholm (1923)