

KGW20 May 15-21

May 15 Su Reading 135 — Psalm 40:1-17 — Great is the LORD!

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- 1 I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.*
- 2 He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.*
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.*
- 4 Blessed is the man who makes
the LORD his trust,
who does not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after a lie!*
- 5 You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you!
I will proclaim and tell of them,
yet they are more than can be told.*
- 6 In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted,
but you have given me an open ear.^[fn]
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.*
- 7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:*
- 8 I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."*
- 9 I have told the glad news of deliverance^[fn]
in the great congregation;
behold, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.*
- 10 I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.*
- 11 As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain
your mercy from me;
your steadfast love and your faithfulness will
ever preserve me!*
- 12 For evils have encompassed me
beyond number;
my iniquities have overtaken me,*

*and I cannot see;
they are more than the hairs of my head;
my heart fails me.*

- 13 *Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me!
O LORD, make haste to help me!*
- 14 *Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether
who seek to snatch away my life;
let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who delight in my hurt!*
- 15 *Let those be appalled because of their shame
who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"*
- 16 *But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, "Great is the LORD!"*
- 17 *As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
do not delay, O my God!*

ESV Footnotes

(40:6) Hebrew *ears you have dug for me*

(40:9) Hebrew *righteousness*; also verse 10

Great Help, Great Need — There are two interesting statements in this psalm that begin in the same way: "*They are more than ...*" The first time, it is speaking about God's "*multiplied ... wondrous deeds and ... thoughts toward us,*" which "*are more than can be told*" (v. 5). What God has done for us in the past stretches our ability to recognize and remember, but David suggested that we should try: "*I will proclaim and tell of them*" (v. 5). Here are some of the things on David's list: God "*heard my cry*" (v. 1), "*drew me up from the pit ... and set my feet upon a rock*" (v. 2), and "*He put a new song in my mouth*" (v. 3). What's on your list? What good things did God do for you recently? Pause to thank Him for what comes to your mind. The psalm then moves from God's great help to David's great need. Again, with the repeated phrase, he said, "*my iniquities have overtaken me ... they are more than the hairs of my head*" (v. 12). It felt like his sins were almost infinite in number. He was overwhelmed by his need, but he looked back to God's past performance in His "*faithfulness ... salvation ... [and] steadfast love*" (v. 10). That gave him courage to ask, to believe, and to wait for God to come through for him again. Whenever we have a great need, we should remember that we have a great God who has supported us in the past. "*Great is the LORD!*" (v. 16).

[Great Is the Lord - YouTube](#)

Great is the Lord; He is holy and just.
By His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord; He is faithful and true.
By His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord and worthy of glory;
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord,
Now lift up your voice; now lift up your voice;
Great is the Lord!
Great is the Lord!

— Michael W. Smith (1982)

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. Of David.

- 1 *Hear my cry, O God,
listen to my prayer;*
- 2 *from the end of the earth I call to you
when my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I,*
- 3 *for you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.*

- 4 *Let me dwell in your tent forever!
Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! Selah*
- 5 *For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.*

- 6 *Prolong the life of the king;
may his years endure to all generations!*
- 7 *May he be enthroned forever before God;
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!*

- 8 *So will I ever sing praises to your name,
as I perform my vows day after day.*

Refuge and Relationship — David pictured God in two important ways in this psalm. The first is that God provides refuge for us. He is “*the rock that is higher than I*” (v. 2) and “*my refuge, a strong tower*” (v. 3). The high rock might protect against natural threats, like a flood; the strong tower would provide safety from threatening enemies. God is a place of security. Secondly, God provides a relationship for us. When David prayed, “*Let me dwell in your tent forever*” (v. 4a), he was picturing God as the host in His home to which he had been personally invited. It is a personal and privileged relationship. Then, David added, “*Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings*” (v. 4b). That is a picture of both protection and relationship, but it is also a place and bond of intimacy. As a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, so God draws us to Himself for safety and closeness. He is as strong as a tower and as soft as a wing. David closed this psalm with this conclusive response: “*So will I ever sing praises to your name*” (v. 8).

[Every Praise - YouTube](#)

Every praise is to our God,
Every word of worship with one accord;
Every praise, every praise is to our God.

Sing Hallelujah to our God,
Glory, Hallelujah unto our God.
Every praise, every praise is to our God.

God my Savior, God my healer, God my deliverer;
Yes He is; yes He is!

— Hezekiah Walker

May 17 Tu Reading 137 — Psalm 62:1-12 — God Alone is My Hope

To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

- 1 *For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.*
- 2 *He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.*
- 3 *How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?*
- 4 *They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.
They take pleasure in falsehood.
They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse. Selah*
- 5 *For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.*
- 6 *He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.*
- 7 *On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.*
- 8 *Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. Selah*
- 9 *Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.*
- 10 *Put no trust in extortion;
set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.*
- 11 *Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.*
- 12 *For you will render to a man
according to his work.*

Our Ultimate Source — The unique thing about this psalm is the almost identical expressions about God in verses 1-2 and 5-6, which emphasize the exclusiveness of God: “*For God alone ... He alone ... For God alone ... He only ...*” He is the ultimate source of our help (“... *my salvation ... my fortress*”). We might be tempted to rely on the tactics of the ungodly for help, using falsehood and manipulation (v. 4), along with acquiring wealth illegally (v. 10). We are challenged, instead, to trust in God alone: “*On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God*” (v. 7). That doesn’t mean that we should do nothing, because in the end, a man will be judged “*according to his work*” (v. 12), which shows evidence of the reality of our faith. What are we commanded to do in

this psalm? David's challenge to us is this: "*Trust in him at all times ... [and] pour out your heart before him*" (v. 8). We are to trust and to pray. The infinitely able and loving God is waiting for us to turn to Him in trust.

[My Faith Looks Up To Thee - YouTube](#)

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away;
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

— Ray Palmer (1830)

May 18 W Reading 138 — Psalm 64:1-10 — Rejoice in God's Refuge

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- 1 *Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint;
preserve my life from dread of the enemy.*
- 2 *Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked,
from the throng of evildoers,*
- 3 *who whet their tongues like swords,
who aim bitter words like arrows,*
- 4 *shooting from ambush at the blameless,
shooting at him suddenly and without fear.*
- 5 *They hold fast to their evil purpose;
they talk of laying snares secretly,
thinking, "Who can see them?"*
- 6 *They search out injustice,
saying, "We have accomplished a diligent search."
For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep.*
- 7 *But God shoots his arrow at them;
they are wounded suddenly.*
- 8 *They are brought to ruin, with their own tongues turned against them;
all who see them will wag their heads.*
- 9 *Then all mankind fears;
they tell what God has brought about
and ponder what he has done.*
- 10 *Let the righteous one rejoice in the LORD
and take refuge in him!
Let all the upright in heart exult!*

God Listens; Man Learns — This psalm shows several things about God and what He does. First, God *hears*. David prayed desperately, "*Hear my voice, O God ... preserve my life ... Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked*" (vv. 1-2a). Actually, David only *asked* God to hear his prayer. Did He hear? How do we know that God hears us when we pray? For one thing, Scripture confirms it. God said through Isaiah, "*Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear*" (Isa.

65:24). The Apostle John supported the same idea: “*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us*” (1 John 5:14). Another way we know that God heard David is that He answered in response. Secondly, God *answers*. Using the same warlike imagery of the wicked oppressors, “*God shoots his arrow at them; they are wounded suddenly. They are brought to ruin...*” (Ps. 64:7-8a). God confirms that He hears our prayers when He acts in answer to what we request. It may not be immediate and may not come in the way we expect, but God demonstrates that He hears us when He answers. Thirdly, this psalm shows that God *teaches*. He uses His answers as lessons to all who see it. As a result of God’s action in this psalm, “*all who see ... will wag their heads ... all mankind fears ... they tell what God has brought about and ponder what he has done*” (vv. 8b-9)—astonishment, fear, announcement, and contemplation. The general population responds with, “What was that?!” The response of the godly people is more than wonder; it is worship. “*Let the righteous one rejoice in the LORD...*” (v. 10).

[Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing - YouTube](#)

Come thou fount of every blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
 Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 Sung by flaming tongues above;
 Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
 Mount of Thy redeeming love.

— Robert Robinson (1758)

May 19 Th Reading 139 — Psalm 5:1-12 — God Who Leads in Righteousness

To the choirmaster: for the flutes. A Psalm of David.

- 1 Give ear to my words, O LORD;
 consider my groaning.
- 2 Give attention to the sound of my cry,
 my King and my God,
 for to you do I pray.
- 3 O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;
 in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you^[fn] and watch.
- 4 For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
 evil may not dwell with you.
- 5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
 you hate all evildoers.
- 6 You destroy those who speak lies;
 the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
- 7 But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
 will enter your house.
 I will bow down toward your holy temple
 in the fear of you.
- 8 Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness
 because of my enemies;
 make your way straight before me.

- 9 *For there is no truth in their mouth;
 their inmost self is destruction;
 their throat is an open grave;
 they flatter with their tongue.*
- 10 *Make them bear their guilt, O God;
 let them fall by their own counsels;
 because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out,
 for they have rebelled against you.*
- 11 *But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
 let them ever sing for joy,
 and spread your protection over them,
 that those who love your name may exult in you.*
- 12 *For you bless the righteous, O LORD;
 you cover him with favor as with a shield.*

ESV Footnote

(5:3) Or *I direct my prayer to you*

Love and Hate — This is the first of many times in the book of Psalms that mentions God’s hatred toward wicked people (“...*you hate all evildoers*”—v. 5). That idea rubs us the wrong way because we like to think of Yahweh only as a God of love. Perhaps our discomfort is because we have too shallow an understanding of the righteousness of God. God is totally righteous and that quality is His goal for us as well. David prayed, “*Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness*” (v. 8). God is both our example and our supplier of righteousness. The Apostle Peter supported God’s OT challenge to His people: “*You shall be holy, for I am holy*” (1 Pet. 1:16; Lev. 11:45). God builds the quality of righteousness in us as we learn to submit to Him. The opposite of hate is also mentioned in this psalm, and that love is also supplied to us by God. David said, “*But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you*” (Ps. 5:7). We can’t even worship God without His supply of “*steadfast love*.” At the beginning of each church service, we should pray for God to give us the ability and desire to worship Him. We should do the same before we sit down to read the Bible every day. Ask for His love to guide, teach, and encourage you as you read!

Here is a short hymn based on verse 8 of this psalm. You can sing along with a piano accompaniment by clicking on this link and then on the play-arrow at the bottom left of the page.

[Lead Me, Lord -- My Hymnary](#)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness;
 make Thy way plain before my face.
 For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord, only,
 that makest me dwell in safety.
 — Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876)

May 20 F Reading 140 — Psalm 41:1-13 — God’s Grace to the Weak

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- 1 *Blessed is the one who considers the poor!^[fn]
 In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;*
- 2 *the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;
 he is called blessed in the land;
 you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.*

- 3 *The LORD sustains him on his sickbed;
in his illness you restore him to full health.^[fn]*
- 4 *As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me,^[fn] for I have sinned against you!"*
- 5 *My enemies say of me in malice,
"When will he die, and his name perish?"*
- 6 *And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,
while his heart gathers iniquity;
when he goes out, he tells it abroad.*
- 7 *All who hate me whisper together about me;
they imagine the worst for me.^[fn]*
- 8 *They say, "A deadly thing is poured out^[fn] on him;
he will not rise again from where he lies."*
- 9 *Even my close friend in whom I trusted,
who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.*
- 10 *But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,
and raise me up, that I may repay them!*
- 11 *By this I know that you delight in me:
my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.*
- 12 *But you have upheld me because of my integrity,
and set me in your presence forever.*
- 13 *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!
Amen and Amen.*

ESV Footnotes

(41:1) Or *weak*

(41:3) Hebrew *you turn all his bed*

(41:4) Hebrew *my soul*

(41:7) Or *they devise evil against me*

(41:8) Or *has fastened*

God of Grace — Twice in this psalm, David prayed, "O LORD, be gracious to me" (vv. 4, 10). Grace is receiving the good that we do not deserve. God is gracious and we do not deserve the good we receive from Him. David admitted that he didn't merit what God would provide for him. Immediately after the first time David offered his request to "be gracious," he followed it with this: "...for I have sinned" (v. 4). We need grace because of our sin. We don't deserve God's goodness, but He gives it to us, anyway. Marvelous grace! It is very interesting that immediately after David's second request for God to "be gracious," he gave this reason: "...that I may repay them!" (v. 10). That sounds like revenge, doesn't it? Most commentaries maintain that David said this because he would be acting as Israel's God-given king, functioning as "the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer" (Rom. 13:4). But couldn't the king have ordered legal punishment from his bed? Also, the parallelism of the two "be gracious" verses might suggest that if the first was followed by a sin statement, so would the second. If he were being vengeful in that statement, God could still be gracious to him. God is gracious to us in spite of our sin.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

— Julia Johnston (1910)

Grace Greater Than Our Sin - YouTube

Meditation: This psalm closes with an unusual expression used only three times in the Bible: “*Amen and Amen!*” (v. 13). Each time it is used, it closes one of the five books of Psalms (cf. 72:19, 89:52). It is an expression of wholehearted and enthusiastic approval of what has been stated, and the fact that the word is doubled intensifies it even more.

May 21 Sa Reading 141 — Psalm 42:1-11 — Hope in God

To the choirmaster. A Maskil^[fn] of the Sons of Korah.

- 1 *As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.*
 - 2 *My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?^[fn]*
 - 3 *My tears have been my food
day and night,
while they say to me all the day long,
“Where is your God?”*
 - 4 *These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I would go with the throng
and lead them in procession to the house of God
with glad shouts and songs of praise,
a multitude keeping festival.*
 - 5 *Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation^[fn] 6 and my God.*
- My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.*
- 7 *Deep calls to deep
at the roar of your waterfalls;
all your breakers and your waves
have gone over me.*
 - 8 *By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.*
 - 9 *I say to God, my rock:
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning
because of the oppression of the enemy?”*
 - 10 *As with a deadly wound in my bones,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me all the day long,
“Where is your God?”*

11 *Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.*

ESV Footnotes

(42:1) Probably a musical or liturgical term

(42:2) Revocalization yields *and see the face of God*

(42:5) Hebrew *the salvation of my face*; also verse 11 and 43:5

Why? Hope! — Verses 5 and 11 are identical in this psalm and seem to function as a refrain for each stanza that precedes it. The first stanza emphasizes one’s longing for fellowship with God in public worship (“...*appear before God ... to the house of God*”—vv. 2, 4). The second stanza speaks of the danger (“*your breakers and your waves*”—v. 7) and isolation (“*Why have you forgotten me?*”) of being separated from the temple in Jerusalem. Where was God in this thirsty and separated situation? He was there as “*the living God*” (v. 2), “*my salvation*” (v. 5), and “*my God*” (v. 6) who “*commands his steadfast love*” (v. 8a), and He gives “*his song*” (v. 8b) to the worshiper. There are two questions in the repeated refrain (“*Why ... why ...?*”) and there is one command (“*Hope in God!*”). We have an advantage over the psalmist in that, with the indwelling Holy Spirit, we can worship God at any time and in any place. Walk with Him today! Worship your way through your day!

[Trust and Obey - YouTube](#)

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way;
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

— John H. Sammis (1887)