

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law. – Psalm 119:18

Through the Bible in a year reading guide – Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church

August – Week 34

Completed

20 - Psalms	18-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
21 - Psalms	23-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
22 - Psalms	31-35	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 - Psalms	36-39	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 - Psalms	40-45	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 - Psalms	46-51	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 - Psalms	52-59	<input type="checkbox"/>

We read God's Word:
To know Him better
To love Him more
To walk in His ways
To be conformed to the image of His Son

This week's reading: we continue in the Psalms. **Note** the expressions of intimacy (like, "to God my exceeding joy" in 43:4; and when told to "Seek My face, my heart said to You, Your face, Yahweh, I will seek" in 27:8.). **Some** Psalms tell us of His love for us (He has our tears in his book 56:8). **Others** express our love for Him - take ownership of these expressions and use them in your prayers. **Many** Psalms are quoted in the New Testament (40:6-8, 45:6, etc.). **Some** are prophetic (Ps. 2, 22, 110, etc.). **There** are prayers for guidance (send your light and truth, they will lead me 43:3, and "from Yahweh the steps of a man are established, and He delights in his way" 37:33); prayers for taking refuge in Him (57:1 "...be gracious to me, for in You my soul takes refuge, and in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge..."). **And** some Psalms give patterns to model for prayer, worship, praise, and thanksgiving. **Enemies** are often mentioned in the Psalms. You may not have human enemies seeking to kill you as David did, but we do have an adversary (1 Pet. 5:8): "Satan" (not his name - it comes from the Hebrew word meaning "adversary", שָׂטָן pronounced "sah-tahn", used 27 times in the Old Testament for men, angels, and, of course, the "devil" - also not his name). **The** Bible says the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom (Prov. 9:10) and knowledge (Prov. 1:7). This week we see "The fear of Yahweh is clean" (19:9), "The secret of Yahweh is for those who fear Him" (25:14); He has goodness stored up for those who fear Him (31:19) and he hides them in the secret place of His presence; His eye is on those who fear Him (33:18); "the angel of Yahweh encamps around those who fear Him" (34:7); there is no want to those who fear Him (34:9); and the fear of Yahweh is to be taught to our children (34:11). **The** Psalms also teach us to trust in God - His love, mercy, and faithfulness. It has been said, "worry is like sitting in a rocking chair: it gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere." We can trust God for all things. We are told not to "fret" (Psalm 37). Jesus told us not to be anxious. It is a waste to fret about things over which we have no control. When things do not go well, it is helpful to remember, "But as for me, I trust in You, Yahweh, I say, 'You are my God. My times are in Your hand'" (31:14-15), so, rest knowing "He is sovereign over my life; all I have to do is follow Him - walk in His ways."

Insights from the Original Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic):

Psalm 19 teaches that the heavens tell the glory of God (19:1-6). This Hebrew word for God (אֱלֹהִים, el - "mighty one"), is the most basic word for God (not exclusively used for God); we can learn basic, elemental things about God through nature (also Rom. 1:18-20). However, in 19:7-14, we can know Him personally (by name, Yahweh) through His word. **Psalm 23** is beloved by many. English translations say, "The LORD is my shepherd", treating "shepherd" as a noun or a title, which does not seem personal or active. In Hebrew, it is a participle: "Yahweh is the One shepherding me", indicating a relationship, and He is actively taking care of me. And in the last verse, "Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life", the word for "mercy" is חֶסֶד (chesed - lovingkindness, steadfast loyal love). The word "follow", רָדַף (ra-daf), means "pursue", (as when Pharaoh pursued Israel after letting them go: Ex. 14:4, also Gen. 44:4, Lev. 26:7-8, Josh. 2:5, etc.). In Hebrew it is, "goodness and mercy will pursue me". **Psalms 25** and **34** are acrostics with each verse beginning with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet (22 verses, one for each letter). In Psalm 30:5, in Hebrew, "weeping" is personified as a temporary guest who comes to lodge for the night and leaves.

How has God revealed Himself in this week's reading? What has He shown me this week?

Yahweh is my: Strength, Rock in Whom I trust, Fortress, Deliverer, God, Shield, Horn of salvation, Stronghold (18:1-2). **With** the kind He shows Himself kind; with the blameless He shows Himself blameless; with the pure He shows Himself pure; with the crooked He shows Himself twisted (18:25-26). **He** illumines our darkness (18:28). **He** is our light and salvation - there is no need to fear, we will be with Him forever (27:1,4) and He will not forsake us (27:10).