

**Psalms of Orientation: June 14-27, 2020**  
**Muhlenberg Lutheran Church**

*The first two weeks of our series focus on “psalms of orientation.” Walter Brueggemann writes that at times, we experience “satisfied seasons of well-being that evoke gratitude for the constancy of blessing. Matching this we will consider ‘psalms of orientation,’ which in a variety of ways articulate the joy, delight, goodness, coherence, and reliability of God, God’s creation, and God’s governing law.” (Spirituality of the Psalms, p.8)*

**Sunday, June 14**

Read: Psalm 1

Listen: Poor Bishop Hooper <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVy6M1gWNmo>

Reflect: The psalmist describes the person who delights in God’s law. What is your emotional response to Scripture—not what you believe about it but how you feel about it?

Pray: Eternal God, in your loving wisdom you set us beside the fountain of life, like a tree planted by running streams. Fill us with delight in your teaching, that we may bear fruit in every season of life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Monday, June 15**

Read: Psalm 2

Listen: Mendelssohn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87yKXfhJz6E>

Reflect: While not technically considered a psalm of orientation, Psalm 2 is paired with Psalm 1 as an introduction to the book of Psalms. While Psalm 1 addresses individuals, Psalm 2 addresses the nations. The psalm is emotional, political and full of questions about power. What questions does it raise for you?

Pray: Lord God, you anointed your only-begotten Son to rule this world in love. Quiet the uproar of the nations, and give us hearts ready to serve the one in whom we take refuge forever, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Tuesday, June 16**

Read: Psalm 15

Listen: My Soul Among Lions [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pc8\\_sMN3sEw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pc8_sMN3sEw)

Reflect: What would it look like to dwell on God’s “holy hill?”

Pray: O God our dwelling place, in Christ you made your home among us. Lead us in the paths of truth and integrity until you bring us to your holy mountain and we live forever in your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Wednesday, June 17**

Read: Psalm 19

Listen: Marcello <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGPmxtO2PcY>

Reflect: In his *Reflections on the Psalms*, C.S. Lewis declared: “I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.” What treasures do you find in this psalm?

Pray: Faithful God, you sent your incarnate Word as the sun of justice to shine upon all the world. Open our eyes to see your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness, for the sake of him through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Thursday, June 18**

Read: Psalm 24

Listen: Keith and Kristyn Getty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsoZ3UsUbNA>

Reflect: What are the implications of proclaiming "The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it?"

Pray: God of all creation, open our hearts that Christ, the King of glory, may enter and rule our lives. Give us clean hands and pure hearts, that we may stand in your presence and receive your blessing through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Friday, June 19**

Read: Psalm 119

Listen: Heinrich Schutz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOELsaODtIs>

Reflect: How do you delight and rejoice in God's Word?

Pray: Holy God, you are just in all your ways and your commandments are the greatest of treasures. Teach us to love you with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Saturday, June 20**

Read: Psalm 33

Listen: Sinead O'Connor <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT24WIH8P-U>

Reflect: In whom do we trust? For whom do we wait?

Pray: O God, by your Word you made heaven and earth, and through your living Word, Jesus Christ, you continue to accomplish your purpose for creation. Make us witnesses to your truth and instruments of your peace, that all may know you are the God who loves justice and acts faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, June 21**

Read: Psalm 113

Listen: Traditional Jewish [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVK\\_grAnTdM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVK_grAnTdM)

Reflect: Psalms 113-118 were traditionally sung at the Passover meal, and were probably the last songs Jesus sang with his disciples before his death. How do you hear this psalm differently, imagining it on the lips of Jesus the night before he was crucified?

Pray: Lord Jesus, surrendering the brightness of your glory, you were born of an earthly mother so that we might be raised from the dust to share your very being. May the children of God always bless your name from the rising of the sun to its going down, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**Monday, June 22**

Read: Psalm 8

Listen: Richard Smallwood <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6zHrd4XdC4>

Reflect: What is the place of humans in God's created order?

Pray: God of majesty, amid the grandeur of your creation you sought us out, and by the coming of your Son you adorned us with glory and honor, giving us dominion over your works. Enable us so to care for the earth that all creation may radiate the splendor of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Tuesday, June 23**

Read: Psalm 104

Listen: Marty Haugen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ry-vUih6m9A>

Reflect: Where do you find joy in God's creation?

Pray: God of majesty, we are constantly surrounded by your gifts and touched by your grace; our words of praise do not approach the wonders of your love. Send forth your Spirit, that our lives may be refreshed and the earth may be renewed, until the new heaven and new earth resound with the song of resurrection in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Wednesday, June 24**

Read: Psalm 145

Listen: Pilgrim Hymns <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrkjalYQ5mo>

Reflect: Where do you see the creative activity of God, still creating today?

Pray: Loving God, you are faithful in your promises and tender in your compassion. Listen to our hymn of joy, and continue to satisfy the needs of every living thing, that all your creatures may bless your name, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, both now and forever. Amen.

**Thursday, June 25**

Read: Psalm 131

Listen: Waterdeep <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zZcNfzxHZO>

Reflect: What fights against quiet and calm in your life?

Pray: Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, you promised your kingdom to those who are like children. Never let pride reign in our hearts, but, holding us with a mother's embrace, teach us to live in quietness and humility now and forever. Amen.

**Friday, June 26**

Read: Psalm 133

Listen: Miami Boys Alumni Choir [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt\\_dL\\_9fQtg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt_dL_9fQtg)

Reflect: How is unity like the oil of blessing described in the psalm? What might unity look like in our households, community, world?

Pray: Gracious God, you have poured into our hearts the precious oil of your Spirit. Make of us one heart and one will, that as members of the body of Christ, we may be united in the bonds of love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Saturday, June 27**

Read: Psalm 37

Listen: Sons of Korah [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_lduKGZpSU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_lduKGZpSU)

Reflect: What is it about your faith in God that reassures and calms you when facing the stuff of life that tests your patience and understanding?

Pray: God our strength, give us the humility to trust in your loving care, and the patience to be faithful in seeking your way, that we may come to share in the inheritance of your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Psalms of Disorientation: June 28-July 11, 2020**  
**Muhlenberg Lutheran Church**

*The second two weeks of our series focus on “psalms of disorientation.” Walter Brueggemann writes that at times, we experience “anguished seasons of hurt, alienation, suffering, and death. These evoke rage, resentment, self-pity, and hatred. Matching this, we will consider ‘psalms of disorientation,’ poems and speech-forms that match the season in its ragged, painful disarray.” (Spirituality of the Psalms, p.8)*

**Sunday, June 28**

Read: Psalm 69

Listen: Richard Bruxfoort Colligan <https://www.psalmmersion.com/psalm-69>

Reflect: When have you grown weary waiting for God?

Pray: God of hope, in Christ’s passover from death to life you restore the fallen and rebuild the broken walls. Turn to us in your great compassion, and answer us with your unfailing help, for you are the strength of your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Monday, June 29**

Read: Psalm 13

Listen: Alisa Turner <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tk8dmqPpgfQ>

Reflect: Do you find this psalm discouraging or encouraging?

Pray: Loving and merciful God, hear the prayers of those who cry to you, and shine with the light of your presence on those who live in the shadow of death. May we rejoice in your saving help and sing you songs of praise in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Tuesday, June 30**

Read: Psalm 35

Listen: Constantijn Huygens <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJB4MUEGdOM>

Reflect: Have you experienced a time when you’ve been falsely accused of something? How did you respond?

Pray: God our deliverance, look on your church as we journey to you, and rescue the poor from their oppressors, that they may sing the praise of your righteousness; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Wednesday, July 1**

Read: Psalm 86

Listen: Mike Janzen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIHdsrn3eXs>

Reflect: Seven times in the psalm the psalmist refers to God as “my Lord,” while three times the psalmist refers to himself as “your servant.” Is this how you would describe your relationship to God? Why or why not?

Pray: Gracious Father, when your Son called out to you in the time of trouble, you heard him and brought him out of the pit of death to the glory of resurrection. Give strength to your servants whom you have raised with him to new life, that with undivided hearts we may worship you and tell the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Thursday, July 2**

Read: Psalm 74

Listen: Jason Silver <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snpH-JHMC2g>

Reflect: When are you most likely to feel that God has rejected you?

Pray: Faithful God, remember the covenant you made to your people of old, as well as the one sealed by the blood of your Son. Guard and guide those who look to you, that we may proclaim your mercy in all the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

### **Friday, July 3**

Read: Psalm 79

Listen: Metric psalm, author unknown <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JnlmflmZn8>

Reflect: Do you experience God as angry?

Pray: Gracious God, in times of sorrow and depression, when hope itself seems lost, help us to remember the transforming power of your steadfast love and to give thanks for that new life we cannot now imagine; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Saturday, July 4**

Read: Psalm 120

Listen: Karl Kohlhase, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-pz80YuaCO>

Reflect: Where do you seek peace? How do you speak and act for peace?

Pray: Gracious God, your Son blessed the peacemakers and called them your children. Give us that peace which the world cannot give, so that, freed from the schemes of the arrogant and devoted to works of peace, we may go forward joyfully to meet you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Sunday, July 5**

Read: Psalm 27

Listen: Herbert Howells, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9C7Q0sIFEB8>

Reflect: What is the relationship between waiting and hope in your life?

Pray: Lord God, our light and our salvation, grant that your servants who seek your face in times of trouble may see your goodness in the land of the living, and that we may be set safely on the rock of our faith, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Monday, July 6**

Read: Psalm 130

Listen: Anglican Chant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJvZ8qzW0e8>

Reflect: What does this psalm say about God?

Pray: God of compassion, you sent your Word into the world to announce the dawn of salvation. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but give to us the fullness of your redeeming grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Tuesday, July 7**

Read: Psalm 22

Listen: The Psalms Project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaJ-moljATU>

Reflect: What can you praise God for even in the midst of the storms of life?

Pray: Eternal God, your Son cried out in anguish from the cross, and you delivered him. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you. By his death and resurrection bring life where there is death: feed

the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of oppression, that all people may rejoice in your saving deeds through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Wednesday, July 8**

Read: Psalm 55

Listen: Sigismondo D'India <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlzGP4OraFw>

Reflect: How do you respond when filled with fear?

Pray: God of grace, you sustained Jesus when he was betrayed and abandoned by his companions. When we are frightened and alone, lift us on the bright wings of your Spirit, that we may find our safest shelter and our truest friend in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Thursday, July 9**

Read: Psalm 57

Listen: Sangeerthanagal <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCK8-p9uKA8>

Reflect: To what or whom do you run for refuge and deliverance?

Pray: Merciful God, refuge in times of trouble, our only hope in living, and our only salvation in dying: keep us in your care, that we may always praise you and faithfully proclaim your name before the nations; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Friday, July 10**

Read: Psalm 89

Listen: John Michael Talbot <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeuGL45-Er0>

Reflect: The psalm takes a drastic turn at verse 38. Does this shift remind you of a time in your life when “the bottom dropped out” and you were left wondering where God was?

Pray: Mighty God, in fulfillment of the promise made to David you established a lasting covenant through Jesus, your beloved Son. You anointed him and raised him higher than all kings on earth. Remember your covenant, so that all who are marked with the cross of your Son may sing of your mercies forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Saturday, July 11**

Read: Psalm 139

Listen: The Corner Room <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SPHM8Sdh34>

Reflect: Is being known so intimately by God good news or bad news for you?

Pray: Almighty God, creator of the universe, we are filled with wonder at all your works and overwhelmed by your infinite wisdom. We praise you for your majesty; yet even more we rejoice that you do not forget us, yet desire to know and care for us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Psalms of New Orientation: July 12-25, 2020**  
**Muhlenberg Lutheran Church**

*The final two weeks of our series focus on “psalms of new orientation.” Walter Brueggemann writes that at times, we experience “a move from a context of disorientation to a new orientation, surprised by a new gift from God, a new coherence made present to us just when we thought all was lost.” Joy breaks through the despair. This is not a return to the old stable orientation, but rather the emergence of a new possibility. (Spirituality of the Psalms, p.11)*

**Sunday, July 12**

Read: Psalm 40

Listen: U2 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XzHlySYR\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XzHlySYR_Y)

Reflect: Is there a new song that God is teaching you to sing in your life?

Pray: O God, none can compare with you; your wondrous deeds for our salvation are without number. Make us bold witnesses to your faithfulness, that all the earth may rejoice in your love toward us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Bonus: Watch this short (22 minute) film documenting the relationship between Bono (from U2) and Eugene Peterson (author of *The Message*) revolving around their shared interest in the Psalms <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l40S5e90KY>

**Monday, July 13**

Read: Psalm 34

Listen: Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfW2mkkMTAg>

Reflect: How does someone “taste” that the Lord is good? See?

Pray: O God, graciously hear us, for we seek you alone. Deliver us from our fears and terrors, quiet us with the peace that passes understanding, and let us taste your goodness, which makes us radiant with joy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Tuesday, July 14**

Read: Psalm 138

Listen: Janet Morrison <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4CXal3uf-k>

Reflect: What does it mean to do something with your “whole heart?” What might it look like to give thanks to God with your whole heart?

Pray: Compassionate God, you look with favor upon the lowly. Keep us safe in the midst of trouble, make known your love in our words and deeds, and bring us to new life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Wednesday, July 15**

Read: Psalm 30

Listen: Orlando Gibbons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0AwW9psWZM>

Reflect: What is the relationship between prayer and praise?

Pray: Loving God, glorious in giving and restoring life, do not hide your face from your people overcome with loneliness and fear. Turn our weeping into dancing, our despair into joy, and raise us up with Christ, that we may rejoice in your presence forever; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Thursday, July 16**

Read: Psalm 65

Listen: Psalm Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LkB8No74ko>

Reflect: What are you most grateful for today?

Pray: Lord God, joy marks your presence; beauty, abundance, and peace are the tokens of your work in all creation. Work also in our lives, that by these signs we may see the splendor of your love and may praise you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Friday, July 17**

Read: Psalm 66

Listen: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan <https://www.psalmmimmersion.com/baruch-elohim>

Reflect: Keep your eyes open today to “see the works of God” in your midst.

Pray: God of awesome deeds and unfailing love, you bring your people through the waters of salvation to the shores of new life. Hear our prayer, receive the praise we offer, and loosen our tongues to tell with joy the great things you have done for us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Saturday, July 18**

Read: Psalm 135

Listen: Cardiphonia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DwN9HiX15Q>

Reflect: What does God’s care of Israel during their wilderness wanderings teach you about God’s power? About God’s ability to take care of you?

Pray: Lord God, great are your deeds; you have shattered the powers of evil and have shown compassion to your servants. Keep us from being deceived by idols, for there is no god like you, and your renown endures from age to age. Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday, July 19**

Read: Psalm 146

Listen: Sarah Emerson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrArqaLT1hl>

Reflect: What might it look like to express God’s love to the oppressed, hungry, captive, blind, bowed down, stranger, orphan, and widow in our midst?

Pray: Blessed indeed are they who put their trust in you, O God, our sure rock and refuge. Guard us from giving to any other the allegiance that belongs only to you. Shine upon us with the brightness of your light, that we may love you with a pure heart and praise you forever; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Monday, July 20**

Read: Psalm 124

Listen: Kevin Davidson & the Voices <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deHggLoWkmg>

Reflect: What area of your life do you need to be more intentional about seeking the Lord’s help?

Pray: Helper and defender of Israel, rescue the peoples of the world from destructive anger, and set us free to love and serve each other in the peace of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Tuesday, July 21**

Read: Psalm 129

Listen: Evelin Seppar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6QT8jNUzsY>

Reflect: How do you feel about a psalm of thanksgiving that also calls for the Lord to punish your enemies? What is the purpose of this kind of language in the psalms?

Pray: Lord Jesus, your death broke the bonds of sin and death, and by your wounds we are healed. Send us your blessing, and strengthen us by your power and grace, that we may praise you now and forever.

**Wednesday, July 22**

Read: Psalm 29

Listen: Cantor Azi Schwartz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNpBHKqdZt4>

Reflect: Take the opportunity to listen today for the sounds of God's glory in chirping of crickets, the whirr of the wind, the clap of thunder, the rush of a stream, and the lowing of cattle.

Pray: God of splendor, your voice thunders over the waters as you reign above the flood. Give strength to your people who are born anew by water and the Spirit, that we may praise your wonderful deeds and give you the glory due your name; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Thursday, July 23**

Read: Psalm 47

Listen: Philip Moore <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtRsHXbZYFc>

Reflect: What ways of praising God mean the most to you?

Pray: God of righteousness, you stand in power over all authorities, and you rule over all governments. Let the peoples of the earth rejoice and the leaders of nations follow the way of the Prince of peace, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Friday, July 24**

Read: Psalm 103

Listen: Jess Ray <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B2HRkdYMzY>

Reflect: What mood do you hear in the psalmist's words? (e.g., Exuberant? Happy? Grateful, as if having just received good news? Somber, as if encouraging someone who is sad?) Do you think of the psalmist's soul as eager, reluctant, what? What difference does it make how you hear these emotions?

Pray: Compassionate Father, you forgive all our sins and put them far from us. As an eagle to her young, you nourish and renew us with your tender love. Sustain us each day of our mortal life, that we may seek your healing for all who are in need, and bring us at last with saints and angels to bless and praise you forever; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Saturday, July 25**

Read: Psalm 150

Listen: Miqedem [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_l6RqHRFU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_l6RqHRFU)

Reflect: How is this grand finale to the Psalms not a finale, but actually a beginning?

Pray: Great and glorious God, unite our praise with the praise of all creation: singing your mighty acts with every breath, playing music to your name with all our instruments, joining the dance of stars and planets with our whole bodies; for you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High—Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.