**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: Mendellsohn <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>

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=fOELsaODtls>

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>

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=3zZcNfzxHZ0>

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>

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>

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.

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