

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (December 4) – Psalm 9, 10, 11, 12

The Psalter is the Church's first hymnal. God caused the words of the Psalms to be preserved, but the original tunes have been lost to us. However, many of the Psalms provide the title of the intended tune, which would have been familiar to those who lived in the time of king David. Psalm 9, one such psalm, was sung to the tune of "Death of the Son." The name of the tune suggests that the Psalm is a Messianic prophecy about the death of Christ. Luther is believed to have said that Jesus recited the Psalter while hanging on the cross (It takes about three hours to recite the whole Psalter.) Whether or not Luther actually said this, it is fitting to read the Psalms as being spoken by Christ during His triumph over sin, death, and hell upon the cross. Consider verse 6: "O enemy, destructions are finished forever!" And verse 13: "Have mercy on me, O LORD! Consider My trouble from those who hate Me, You who lift Me up from the gates of death." If you have not done so before, as we read through the Psalter, imagine the words being spoken by Jesus upon His cross.

In Psalm 10 Christ confesses His confidence in God's triumph over evil. In Psalm 11 He speaks of the Lord's righteousness. In Psalm 12 Jesus, the godly Man (v. 1), is surrounded by the wicked on every side (v. 8).

Tuesday (December 5) – Psalm 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

We are saved by faith, but that faith is a gift from God. Jesus exemplifies the saving faith that He gives to us, as He Himself confesses His trust in God the Father. In so doing, our Lord leads us in the right path. Psalm 13 begins with the question, "How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?" This brings to mind Jesus' cry from the cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" But Jesus continues, "But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation" (v. 5). In Psalm 14 God the Father looks down upon the children of men, but there is none righteous, no not one. St. Paul quotes this passage in Romans 3. Psalm 15 speaks of Christ. Only He walks uprightly (v. 2) and may dwell in the holy presence of God the Father. Psalm 16 speaks now of the resurrection of Christ: "For You will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption" (v. 10). Knowing that He will be raised from the dead, Jesus confesses that God will save those who trust in Him (17:7). We too may follow our Savior as we use His own words to confess this same faith.

Wednesday (December 6) – Psalm 18

The title of Psalm 18 tells us that David penned these words in thanksgiving to God for deliverance from the hand of Saul. That is the immediate context. But the greater context that the Holy Spirit had in mind as He breathed out these words through David's pen was our deliverance from the greater enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Truly verse 20 applies more properly and fully to Christ than to David: "The Lord rewarded me according to My righteousness; according to the cleanness of My hands He has recompensed me."

Thursday (December 7) – Psalm 19, 20

In Psalm 19 we find one of many confessions concerning the Law of the Lord. The Psalm speaks of how the believer loves God’s Law. But how can this be? We know from personal experience that the sinful nature hates the Law and chafes under its burden. But the new man, who has been joined to Christ in Holy Baptism, truly loves the Law of God, which is perfect and holy. In the Psalter, there are a number of synonyms used to speak of the Law of God: testimonies, commandments, judgments, and precepts. Psalm 20 is a prayer of blessing. “May the Lord...” We should understand that when the word “may” is used in a blessing, it is not expressing a wish, but a certainty, according to the promises of God.

Friday (December 8) – Psalm 21, 22, 23

Psalm 21 speaks of the plot that the enemies of Christ devised for Him (v. 11). But God frustrated Satan’s purposes through the suffering and resurrection of His Son. Psalm 22 is the greatest Messianic psalm of all. It reads almost as an eyewitness account of the crucifixion. Here is sufficient proof that the Holy Spirit, not David, is the true author of Psalms. The references to the Crucifixion are so striking that unbelieving Jews who lived after the time of Christ tried to alter the text, changing “They pierced My hands and My feet” (v. 16) to “*Like a lion* my hands and feet.” As Jesus hangs upon the cross, bearing the sins of the whole world, He can truly say, “I am a worm, and no man” (v. 6). The Psalm ends with a further prophecy which concerns you: “They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done this” (v. 31).

Psalm 23 is easily the most familiar of all the psalms. Verse 5 is a reference to Holy Communion, which we receive now even though we are still living among the sorrows and trials of this broken, sinful world.

Saturday (December 9) – Psalm 24, 25, 26

Psalm 24 is a prophecy concerning Jesus on Palm Sunday as He entered the city of Jerusalem. Psalm 25 is a confession of guilt and a prayer for forgiveness. It is right for all Christians to pray the penitential Psalms. We can even consider Jesus praying these Psalms— not because He committed sin, but because He took all of our sins upon Himself and became sin in our place. Our sins truly became His sins, and so He could truly pray to His Father, saying, “For Your name’s sake, O Lord, pardon My iniquity, for it is great” (25:11).

Sunday (December 10) – Psalm 27, 28, 29

In Psalms 27 and 28 Jesus teaches us to confess our faith in the deliverance of God. Just as the Father delivered His only begotten Son from death, so He delivers His adopted children from all our enemies. Psalm 29 is a psalm of praise to the Lord who gives strength to His people and blesses them with peace (vv. 10–11).