

## Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

### **Monday (December 18) – Psalm 46, 47, 48**

Martin Luther used Psalm 46 as the basis for his hymn “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.” This psalm shows that no matter how chaotic the world gets, God is our refuge and our strength. The answer to the problems of our life is not in looking backwards to “the good old days” nor in relying on our own strength and intelligence. Our triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is in our midst, and no matter how earthly kingdoms totter the kingdom of God stands firm through it all. The river in the city of God is the river of God’s Word and Sacraments which bring refreshing and strength in a chaotic world. Know that Christ is alive and at the right hand of the Father. You are victorious in Him for He is your rock and fortress. Psalm 47 is about the Ascension of Christ. In verse 8 it says, “God has gone up with a shout.” Compare this with Psalm 61:18 and Ephesians 4:8-10. Jesus is God, the Son of God, and He has ascended to the right hand of God the Father. To Christ’s human nature has been given all dominion over the nations, and He is crowned King of all the earth. It’s given to His human nature so He can share His power and gifts with His Church. We in His Church give shouts of thanks and praise for He has equipped us, giving us each a measure of His grace. Psalm 48 is about Mount Zion. Zion is often used in the Old Testament for the people of God. Christ dwells in His Church where His Word is rightly preached and His Sacraments administered. Through faith He also dwells in us. By His Spirit through His Word, God guides us now and forever in eternity.

### **Tuesday (December 19) – Psalm 49, 50**

Psalm 49 is a psalm on having wisdom in regards to money. This psalm is a reminder that those who trust in their wealth cannot stop the power of death. No one can ransom his life from death. Our sins are too great. The cost is too high. But the psalmist in verse 15 turns to Christ. Christ by His resurrection has ransomed our life and promises that death (Sheol) is not the end. It is better to trust in Christ who ransoms you from death. Psalm 50 is a correction on the abuse of offering sacrifices to God. God didn’t want the Israelites going through the motions of sacrificing animals without true faith in Him, nor using the sacrificial system as an excuse to live in their sins of wickedness without changing. God wants the sacrifice of thanksgiving and of calling upon Him in the day of trouble. God wants the sacrifice of repentance from us. Don’t use the forgiveness that Christ freely gives you as a license to sin. Instead let His forgiveness change your life and then give Him thanks!

### **Wednesday (December 20) – Psalm 51, 52, 53, 54**

Psalm 51 is a psalm of repentance. God wants the sacrifice of a broken and contrite spirit which is a deep recognition of our sins. Dear Christian, use this psalm to confess your sins to the Lord. Jesus promises that He washes you thoroughly from your iniquity and cleanses you from your sin by the power of His blood. Ask the Lord to create a clean heart within you, a new heart that hates sin and basks in the joy of salvation which He gives you! Psalm 52 is a

psalm on the wicked who will perish if they persist in their wickedness and on the righteous who trust in the steadfast love of God for us in Christ. Psalm 53 is on original sin (i.e. how we are born in sin). God sees how all of mankind has been corrupted by sin. No one is good. The psalm ends by looking to God who shall come out of Israel. Christ who comes out of Zion (Jerusalem) is the one who provides salvation from the bondage of original sin so you can rejoice and be glad in Him! Psalm 54 is a prayer you should pray when you are persecuted by evil men who hate the truth. Christ promises to deliver you from them for He is ascended and still reigning!

### **Thursday (December 21) – Psalm 55, 56**

Psalms 55 and 56 are prayers about when we are persecuted by evil men. In Psalm 55 we are to cast the burden of our care on God, and in Psalm 56 God promises to have kept track of your tears in His bottle and your sleepless nights in His book. Trust in Him for what can sinful men do to you? They cannot take away your salvation nor God's love.

### **Friday (December 22) – Psalm 57, 58, 59, 60**

Psalms 57 and 59 are more prayers asking for deliverance from evil men. Psalm 58 is a Psalm of comfort against the “gods” (vs. 1) who are the magistrates and those in political authority that abuse their authority using it for personal power and greed. The psalmist knows that these wicked judges will be judged by God the righteous Judge, and He will stop their evil. Psalm 60 is a lament over the affliction that God allows to occur. The Psalmist turns to praise knowing that despite all the hardship we endure Christ has not rejected us, but through Him we are victorious over our foes of the devil, the world, sin, and death.

### **Saturday (December 23) – Psalm 61, 62, 63**

Both Psalms 61 and 62 focus on how God is the rock higher than ourselves. All other hopes and trusts cannot deliver. Psalm 63 is on how our soul is thirsty and parched. All other things we try to quench this spiritual thirst we have inside of ourselves only leave us more dehydrated. Christ comes and gives us the water of spiritual life that quenches the thirst of our souls. It's because of this we have a deep burning love for God above all things.

### **Sunday (December 24) – Psalm 64, 65, 66**

On this Christmas Eve we think of how God fulfilled Psalm 64 in protecting Christ from the wickedness of Herod. We also reflect on Psalm 65 and how the Son of God became a man in order to atone (cover) all our transgressions by dying on the cross (vs. 4). As we come to Psalm 66 which extols God for His awesome deeds and all that He has done for our souls, we think of the most awesome of all deeds: God joining His creation to be born as an infant child to give our soul the new birth of faith and life in Him.