

PRAY EVERY DAY July 18, 2021 Resource

*Singing About Love from Psalm 89:1-2 (NRSV)*

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.  
I declare your steadfast love is established forever;  
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)*

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| July 19: Proverbs 19 – 21 | July 23: Proverbs 30 – 31   |
| July 20: Proverbs 22 – 23 | July 24: Ecclesiastes 1 – 4 |
| July 21: Proverbs 24 – 26 | July 25: Ecclesiastes 5 – 8 |
| July 22: Proverbs 27 – 29 |                             |

*A Collect Prayer for Proper 11 from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Small Group or personal study*

Read Psalm 89:1-52

- The steadfast love of God is a major theme of Psalm 89. This “steadfast love” can be translated as “covenant faithfulness” and it is emphasized here how God will keep God’s promises forever. If you were adding a few lines to Psalm 89, what words of praise and God being faithful would you add?
- While there is much praise in Psalm 89, there is also great lament, questioning God, and a call for God to remember that steadfast love. There is recognition that there are times when present reality does not match God’s past promises (see vv. 46 and 49). Where in your life, the church, or the world does current reality not match God’s promises? If you were adding a few lines to Psalm 89, what words of lament, questioning, or asking God to remember would you add?
- Psalm 89 begins and ends with praise even though there is great lament and need within it. The steadfast love and faithfulness of God shines through in the cries for remembrance and in the celebrations of praise. Psalm 89 does not end with a resolution to the lament and questions posed. The composer – Ethan who was very wise (1 Kings 4:31) – holds open the questions of lament and holds open the steadfast love of God. It can be tempting to ignore, deny, or minimize brokenness in ourselves or the world. Jesus enters human brokenness with the grace of life in God. It can be great faith bringing together present pain and the steadfast love of God. How might you welcome Jesus Christ into brokenness in your life? How might you welcome Jesus into the brokenness in our world with hope in the steadfast love of God?

*Spend time in silence*

*Prayer for others and yourself*

*The Lord’s Prayer*

*Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships*

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share it this week in small group for support and prayer.

*The Benediction from Book III of the Psalms from Psalm 89:52 (NRSV)*

Blessed be the LORD forever.

Amen and Amen.