

Psalms of summer

reading guide



Calvary
BAPTIST CHURCH

A Letter From Pastor Ricky

Calvary family,

For the next one hundred and eight days, I want to invite you to walk with me through the longest book in your Bible. The Psalms have been the songbook, prayer book, and counseling book of God's people for nearly three thousand years. Athanasius called the Psalms a mirror of the soul. Calvin called them an anatomy of all the parts of the soul. Every emotion you have ever felt is here, and every one of them is taken to the Lord.

I am asking you to do three things with me. First, read the assigned passage every day, even if you can only sit with it for ten minutes. Second, work through the devotional and let the Word land on your life. Third, pray the prompts at the bottom of each page, both for yourself and for our church family. The prayer prompts are not optional add-ons. They are the point. The Psalms train us to talk to God, and we want to be a people of prayer.

Carry hope. Build intentional relationships. Pursue Jesus. Make disciples. That is the mission God has given Calvary, and the Psalms will fuel every single piece of it. Hope, because the Psalms keep pointing us to a Savior. Relationships, because we will be praying for one another by name. Pursuing Jesus, because every Psalm finally bends toward Him. Discipleship, because the Word will be hiding in our hearts.

Pull a friend or a small group into this with you. Read out loud at the breakfast table. Mark up your Bible. Cry when you need to cry and sing when you need to sing. The Psalms can handle it. Better, the God of the Psalms can handle it.

I love being your pastor. Let's open the Psalms together.

In Christ,

Pastor Ricky Smith

Calvary Baptist Church | Columbus, GA

Reading Plan Overview

A bird's-eye view of the 108-day journey. Tear it out, tape it to your fridge, slip it in your Bible. Whatever helps you keep going.

Day	Date	Reading	Devotional Title
1	Monday, May 4	Psalm 1	Two Trees, Two Paths
2	Tuesday, May 5	Psalm 2	Kiss the Son
3	Wednesday, May 6	Psalm 3 and Psalm 4	Morning and Evening with the LORD
4	Thursday, May 7	Psalm 5	Morning Worship
5	Friday, May 8	Psalm 6	Tears in His Bottle
6	Saturday, May 9	Psalm 7	Refuge When You Are Slandered
7	Sunday, May 10	Psalm 8	Majestic Name, Mindful God
8	Monday, May 11	Psalm 9	A Stronghold for the Oppressed
9	Tuesday, May 12	Psalm 10	When God Seems Far Away
10	Wednesday, May 13	Psalm 11 and Psalm 12	When Foundations Shake, His Words Are Pure
11	Thursday, May 14	Psalm 13 and Psalm 14	How Long, O Lord; The Fool Says No
12	Friday, May 15	Psalm 15 and Psalm 16	Who May Dwell, and the Path of Life
13	Saturday, May 16	Psalm 17	The Apple of His Eye
14	Sunday, May 17	Psalm 18	Rock, Refuge, and Resounding Praise
15	Monday, May 18	Psalm 19	Two Books, One Author
16	Tuesday, May 19	Psalm 20 and Psalm 21	Help in Trouble, Joy in the King
17	Wednesday, May 20	Psalm 22	Forsaken, Yet Trusting
18	Thursday, May 21	Psalm 23	The Good Shepherd
19	Friday, May 22	Psalm 24	The King of Glory
20	Saturday, May 23	Psalm 25	Teach Me Your Paths
21	Sunday, May 24	Psalm 26	A Walk of Integrity
22	Monday, May 25	Psalm 27	One Thing
23	Tuesday, May 26	Psalm 28 and Psalm 29	Hear My Cry; The Voice of the LORD
24	Wednesday, May 27	Psalm 30	Joy Comes in the Morning
25	Thursday, May 28	Psalm 31	Into Your Hand
26	Friday, May 29	Psalm 32	The Joy of Forgiveness
27	Saturday, May 30	Psalm 33	A New Song
28	Sunday, May 31	Psalm 34	Taste and See
29	Monday, June 1	Psalm 35	Contend, O LORD
30	Tuesday, June 2	Psalm 36	In Your Light We See Light
31	Wednesday, June 3	Psalm 37	Fret Not, Trust In, Delight Yourself
32	Thursday, June 4	Psalm 38	Owning the Weight

33	Friday, June 5	Psalms 39	Teach Me to Number My Days
34	Saturday, June 6	Psalms 40	A New Song from the Pit
35	Sunday, June 7	Psalms 41	Blessed Is the One Who Considers the Poor
36	Monday, June 8	Psalms 42 and Psalms 43	Why So Cast Down, O My Soul?
37	Tuesday, June 9	Psalms 44	When You Have Done Right and Things Still Hurt
38	Wednesday, June 10	Psalms 45	A Wedding Song for the King
39	Thursday, June 11	Psalms 46	A Mighty Fortress
40	Friday, June 12	Psalms 47 and Psalms 48	God the King of All the Earth
41	Saturday, June 13	Psalms 49	Money, Mortality, and Meaning
42	Sunday, June 14	Psalms 50	The Mighty One, God the LORD
43	Monday, June 15	Psalms 51	Create in Me a Clean Heart
44	Tuesday, June 16	Psalms 52 and Psalms 53	A Green Olive Tree and a Foolish Heart
45	Wednesday, June 17	Psalms 54 and Psalms 55	Behold, God Is My Helper
46	Thursday, June 18	Psalms 56 and Psalms 57	In God I Trust; My Heart Is Steadfast
47	Friday, June 19	Psalms 58 and Psalms 59	Trusting the Just Judge
48	Saturday, June 20	Psalms 60 and Psalms 61	A Banner and a Higher Rock
49	Sunday, June 21	Psalms 62 and Psalms 63	For God Alone My Soul Waits
50	Monday, June 22	Psalms 64 and Psalms 65	From Hidden Plots to Crowned Years
51	Tuesday, June 23	Psalms 66 and Psalms 67	Come and See; Let the Nations Be Glad
52	Wednesday, June 24	Psalms 68	A Father to the Fatherless
53	Thursday, June 25	Psalms 69	Reproach for the Sake of God
54	Friday, June 26	Psalms 70 and Psalms 71	Make Haste; Do Not Forsake the Aging
55	Saturday, June 27	Psalms 72	A King Whose Reign Will Bless the Earth
56	Sunday, June 28	Psalms 73	When the Wicked Prosper
57	Monday, June 29	Psalms 74	Remembering When the Sanctuary Burns
58	Tuesday, June 30	Psalms 75 and Psalms 76	God Is the Judge; God Is to Be Feared
59	Wednesday, July 1	Psalms 77	I Will Remember the Deeds of the LORD
60	Thursday, July 2	Psalms 78	Tell the Coming Generation
61	Friday, July 3	Psalms 79 and Psalms 80	Restore Us, O God
62	Saturday, July 4	Psalms 81 and Psalms 82	Open Wide Your Mouth
63	Sunday, July 5	Psalms 83 and Psalms 84	Better One Day in Your Courts
64	Monday, July 6	Psalms 85 and Psalms 86	Steadfast Love and Faithfulness Meet
65	Tuesday, July 7	Psalms 87 and Psalms 88	A Citizen of Zion; Acquainted with Darkness
66	Wednesday, July 8	Psalms 89	A Covenant That Will Not Fail
67	Thursday, July 9	Psalms 90	Teach Us to Number Our Days
68	Friday, July 10	Psalms 91	He Will Cover You With His Pinions
69	Saturday, July 11	Psalms 92 and Psalms 93	A Song for the Sabbath

70	Sunday, July 12	Psalm 94 and Psalm 95	O Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down
71	Monday, July 13	Psalm 96 and Psalm 97	Sing a New Song; the LORD Reigns
72	Tuesday, July 14	Psalm 98 and Psalm 99	He Comes to Judge the Earth in Righteousness
73	Wednesday, July 15	Psalm 100 and Psalm 101	Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving
74	Thursday, July 16	Psalm 102	You Will Have Pity on Zion
75	Friday, July 17	Psalm 103	Bless the LORD, O My Soul
76	Saturday, July 18	Psalm 104	How Many Are Your Works
77	Sunday, July 19	Psalm 105	Remember the Wondrous Works
78	Monday, July 20	Psalm 106	They Forgot the God of Their Salvation
79	Tuesday, July 21	Psalm 107	Then They Cried to the LORD
80	Wednesday, July 22	Psalm 108	My Heart Is Steadfast, O God
81	Thursday, July 23	Psalm 109	Be Not Silent, O God
82	Friday, July 24	Psalm 110	A Priest Forever
83	Saturday, July 25	Psalm 111 and Psalm 112	The Fear of the LORD; The Blessed Man
84	Sunday, July 26	Psalm 113 and Psalm 114	He Raises the Poor; The Earth Trembles
85	Monday, July 27	Psalm 115	Not to Us, O LORD, But to Your Name
86	Tuesday, July 28	Psalm 116	I Love the LORD
87	Wednesday, July 29	Psalm 117 and Psalm 118	The Stone the Builders Rejected
88	Thursday, July 30	Psalm 119:1-48 (Aleph through Vav)	Blessed Are Those Who Walk in His Law
89	Friday, July 31	Psalm 119:49-96 (Zayin through Lamed)	Your Word Is My Comfort
90	Saturday, August 1	Psalm 119:97-144 (Mem through Tsadhe)	A Lamp to My Feet
91	Sunday, August 2	Psalm 119:145-176 (Qoph through Tav)	Like a Lost Sheep
92	Monday, August 3	Psalm 120 and Psalm 121	The Songs of Ascent Begin
93	Tuesday, August 4	Psalm 122 and Psalm 123	I Was Glad When They Said, Let Us Go
94	Wednesday, August 5	Psalm 124 and Psalm 125	If the LORD Had Not Been on Our Side
95	Thursday, August 6	Psalm 126 and Psalm 127	Tears for Seed; Sons as Arrows
96	Friday, August 7	Psalm 128 and Psalm 129	Blessed Family; Long-Plowed Backs
97	Saturday, August 8	Psalm 130 and Psalm 131	Out of the Depths; A Weaned Soul
98	Sunday, August 9	Psalm 132 and Psalm 133	When Brothers Dwell in Unity
99	Monday, August 10	Psalm 134 and Psalm 135	Lift Up Your Hands
100	Tuesday, August 11	Psalm 136	His Steadfast Love Endures Forever
101	Wednesday, August 12	Psalm 137 and Psalm 138	By the Rivers; Bold Praise
102	Thursday, August 13	Psalm 139	Search Me and Know Me
103	Friday, August 14	Psalm 140 and Psalm 141	Set a Guard Over My Mouth
104	Saturday, August 15	Psalm 142 and Psalm 143	I Pour Out My Complaint Before Him
105	Sunday, August 16	Psalm 144 and Psalm 145	I Will Extol You, My God and King

106	Monday, August 17	Psalm 146 and Psalm 147	Praise the LORD; He Heals the Brokenhearted
107	Tuesday, August 18	Psalm 148 and Psalm 149	Praise Him from the Heights and the Depths
108	Wednesday, August 19	Psalm 150	Let Everything That Has Breath

Day 1 | Monday, May 4, 2026

Two Trees, Two Paths

Reading: Psalm 1 (ESV)

Psalm 1 hangs over the entire Psalter like a doorway. Before we sing, we are asked which path we are on. The blessed person is the one whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. The Hebrew word for meditate, *hagah*, pictures a low murmur, like a lion crouched over prey or a person rolling a verse around in their mouth. Meditation is not emptying the mind, it is filling the heart with the Word until you cannot stop chewing on it.

Two trees grow in this Psalm. One is planted by streams of water, with roots that drink and leaves that endure. The other is chaff, dry husk that the wind drives away. The tree did not plant itself. Someone planted it. The way of the righteous is not earned, it is rooted, and it is rooted because the gracious Gardener put it where the water flows.

Personally, ask yourself today what is feeding your roots. Scrolling? News? Fear? Or the steady flow of God's Word, prayer, and Christian community? You will look like whatever you sit under. As Calvary, we want to be a planted people, not a chaff people. We want roots that go deep into Scripture, branches that bear fruit in our city, and lives that do not blow away when the cultural wind howls. Let this be the prayer of every Calvary home for the next 108 days: plant us deep, Lord.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, plant me by Your streams. Give me a hunger for Your Word that outlasts every other appetite. Show me what I am rooted in today, and where I need to be replanted in You.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a tree planted by Your living water. Cause our families, our small groups, and our ministries to drink deeply from Your Word, so that we bear fruit in season for Columbus and beyond.*

Day 2 | Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Kiss the Son

Reading: Psalm 2 (ESV)

If Psalm 1 sets the path of the believer, Psalm 2 sets the throne of the King. The nations rage. The peoples plot in vain. Rulers take counsel against the LORD and against His Anointed. The Hebrew is *mashiach*, the Greek is *christos*, our English word is Messiah. Psalm 2 is unmistakably about Jesus, and the New Testament cites it more than any other Psalm to make that point (Acts 4:25-26, Acts 13:33, Hebrews 1:5, Hebrews 5:5).

Heaven's response to human rebellion is not panic. It is laughter. The God who sits in the heavens laughs because He has already set His King on the holy hill. Then the throne speaks: 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you.' The risen Christ rules now, and every nation, including ours, is accountable to Him.

The Psalm ends with a tender command: 'Kiss the Son.' In ancient courts, you kissed the king's hand or feet to declare your loyalty. Today you kiss the Son by surrendering your will, your time, your money, and your future to Him. Personally, ask the Spirit where you are still trying to negotiate with the King instead of bowing to Him. As a church, we want to be a Calvary that takes refuge in the Son and not in political tribes, cultural movements, or our own opinions. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him, the Psalm says, and a refuge is exactly what our hurting neighbors need us to be.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *King Jesus, I bow. I take refuge in You today, not in my plans, my politics, or my performance. Give me joy in obedience and steadiness in surrender.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, may Calvary Baptist be a refuge city where weary souls meet the King who reigns. Keep us from idolizing earthly kingdoms and humble us under the lordship of Christ alone.*

Day 3 | Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Morning and Evening with the LORD

Reading: Psalm 3 and Psalm 4 (ESV)

Today's two short Psalms are bookends for an ordinary day. Psalm 3 is a morning prayer. Psalm 4 is an evening prayer. They were written when David was running for his life from his own son Absalom. He had every reason to be paralyzed by fear, and yet he says, 'I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.'

Notice the rhythm. In the morning he names the trouble: 'O LORD, how many are my foes!' He does not pretend the threats are small. Then he names the LORD: 'But you, O LORD, are a shield about me.' At night he counsels his own heart: 'Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.' Honest prayer in the morning, settled silence at night.

Personally, what would it look like to give your first thought of the day and your last thought of the day to the LORD? Not perfect prayers, just turned faces. As Calvary, we want to be a people whose homes are full of morning and evening prayer, not a people who only pray when we panic. Imagine our church if every household was bookending the day with the words of David. Imagine our children growing up under that sound. The peace David enjoyed, that allowed him to sleep while his enemies pursued him, is available to every saint who closes the day with, 'In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.'

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Lord, take my first waking thought and my last waking thought today. Be my shield in the morning and my peace at night. Help me sleep in Your safety.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, raise up praying households at Calvary. Bookend the day in our homes with words spoken to You, so that the next generation grows up hearing their parents talk to the living God.*

Day 4 | Thursday, May 7, 2026

Morning Worship

Reading: Psalm 5 (ESV)

Psalm 5 is the morning prayer of a man who refuses to start his day on autopilot. 'O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.' The verb prepare is the same word used for setting wood in order on the altar. David is saying, before the day burns, I am laying out the wood. I am ready for God to send the fire.

Notice what David lays out before the LORD. He lays out his groaning (verse 1). He lays out his cry (verse 2). He lays out his trust that God hates evil (verses 4-6). He lays out his desire to enter the house of God in worship (verse 7). And he lays out his confidence that the LORD blesses the righteous and surrounds them with favor as with a shield (verse 12). All of it before noon.

How many of us start our day reaching for a phone instead of reaching for a Bible? The first sacrifice we lay on the altar tells the truth about what we are actually worshiping. Personally, try setting your Bible on top of your phone tonight, so that when you reach for it in the morning you have to choose. As Calvary, let us be a people whose mornings are loud with worship and quiet with listening. Let our city know that there is a church in Columbus that still prepares the morning sacrifice. The fire still falls on prepared altars.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, in the morning You hear my voice. Tomorrow I will lay it all out before You: my work, my worries, my words. Send Your fire.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a sunrise people. May our church family be known across Columbus as the kind of saints who start their day at Your altar before the world ever sees them.*

Day 5 | Friday, May 8, 2026

Tears in His Bottle

Reading: Psalm 6 (ESV)

Psalm 6 is the first of seven Psalms the early church called the Penitential Psalms. It is the prayer of a soul wrung out with grief. 'I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.' If you have ever cried so hard you soaked the pillow, Psalm 6 was written for you.

David does not pretend strength he does not have. Be gracious to me, he says. Heal me. My bones are troubled. Sometimes our bones really are troubled. Sometimes the body carries what the heart cannot say. The Hebrew word for troubled here is *bahal*, a word for trembling and panic. David is shaking. And he is praying.

Then the Psalm pivots in verse 8: 'Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.' Tears that fall before God are never wasted. Psalm 56:8 says God puts our tears in His bottle. The God who counts the stars also counts the wet spots on your pillow.

Personally, ask yourself if you have made room to grieve. Not wallow, grieve. Bring your tears to the One who collects them. As a church, let us be the kind of family where weeping is welcome. Calvary should be the safest place in Columbus to fall apart, because we know who is gathering up the pieces. We carry hope by sitting with hurting people long enough for them to know they are seen.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, count my tears. Heal what is bruised in my body and my heart. Turn my weeping into worship as I keep coming back to You.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a safe place to grieve. Give us patience for the brokenhearted, and ears that listen longer than they speak. Comfort the people in our pews who are crying tonight.*

Day 6 | Saturday, May 9, 2026

Refuge When You Are Slandered

Reading: Psalm 7 (ESV)

Psalm 7 is a shiggaion, a word that probably means a wild, irregular, passionate song. David is on the run from a man named Cush who has spread lies about him. He cannot stop the rumor, but he can run to the Refuge. 'O LORD my God, in you do I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers and deliver me.'

What do you do when someone is misrepresenting you? David does three things. First, he takes refuge in God instead of attacking back. Second, he asks God to examine him: 'O LORD my God, if I have done this, if there is wrong in my hands... let the enemy pursue my soul' (verse 3-5). He invites God's audit before he indicts anyone else. Third, he trusts God's righteous judgment to set the record straight in His timing.

That sequence will preach. Most of us reverse it. We attack first, defend ourselves second, and audit our own souls last, if at all. The way of the cross is the opposite. Take refuge. Let God audit. Wait for His verdict.

Personally, is there a relationship where you have been wronged or where you suspect you have been the wrong-doer? Ask God to examine your hands today. As Calvary, let us be a people who do not fight cheap battles on social media or in the parking lot. The world is watching to see if Christians can absorb a hit without swinging back. When we take refuge instead of revenge, we tell our city that we believe in a Judge who never miscounts.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Lord, You are my refuge. Search my heart, judge my motives, and deliver me from the temptation to defend myself with the weapons of the world.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, give Calvary a reputation for grace under pressure. When we are misunderstood or attacked, let us hide in You instead of hitting back, so the watching city sees Christ in us.*

Day 7 | Sunday, May 10, 2026

Majestic Name, Mindful God

Reading: Psalm 8 (ESV)

Psalm 8 is one of the most quoted Psalms in the New Testament because it is one of the most important sentences in the Bible: 'O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!' The Hebrew name behind LORD is Yahweh, the covenant name. The Hebrew word for Lord is Adonai, the title of authority. Yahweh is also Adonai. The God of intimacy is the God of authority. Both at once.

Then David asks the question every honest soul has asked under a sky full of stars: 'What is man that you are mindful of him?' If God hung Orion and Pleiades and the Milky Way, why on earth would He notice me? And yet He does. He has crowned humanity with glory and honor and given us dominion. Hebrews 2 takes that and lifts it higher: the One in whom this Psalm is finally fulfilled is Jesus, who became man, was crowned with thorns, then crowned with glory, and now reigns over all things for the church.

On the Lord's Day, gather with the Calvary family and remember who you are. You are not an accident. You are a son or daughter of the King, mindful of the Father because the Father has been mindful of you in Christ. Personally, take a long look at the sky tonight. Worship out loud. As a church, may every Sunday gathering be the kind of moment that pulls a watching neighbor in to ask why we sing the way we do.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I am amazed that You are mindful of me. Crown my ordinary life with the dignity of a son of the King, and let my worship today match Your worth.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill our Sunday gathering with the kind of awe that makes neighbors curious. Let Your majestic name be heard in our songs, our prayers, and our preaching today.*

Day 8 | Monday, May 11, 2026

A Stronghold for the Oppressed

Reading: Psalm 9 (ESV)

Psalm 9 is the first half of a song. Many scholars think Psalms 9 and 10 were originally one acrostic, with each section starting with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Psalm 9 is the praise half. Psalm 10 is the lament half. Together they tell the truth about a world where God is good and evil is real.

The hinge of Psalm 9 is verse 9: 'The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.' The Hebrew word *misgav* pictures a high tower, a refuge above the battle. Notice that David never says trouble will not come. He says the LORD will be the high tower in trouble.

Then comes the line that ought to be carved over every church door: 'Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you' (verse 10). To know His name is to know His character. Yahweh is the covenant-keeping, sin-forgiving, promise-making God. Knowing His name is the foundation of trusting Him.

Personally, where in your life do you need a stronghold today? Marriage? Kids? Health? Finances? Run there in prayer. As Calvary, let us be a church that goes hunting for the oppressed, the forgotten, the foster child, the widow, and the addict, because that is who our God especially watches over. We do not just preach about a stronghold. We become a stronghold for the people in our community no one else is fighting for.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *LORD, be my stronghold today. I take refuge in Your name. Teach me Your character so my trust grows deeper than my trouble.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, send Calvary into the lives of the oppressed and forgotten in Columbus. Make our church a tower of safety for those who have nowhere else to run.*

Day 9 | Tuesday, May 12, 2026

When God Seems Far Away

Reading: Psalm 10 (ESV)

Psalm 10 is the lament half of yesterday's song. It begins with a question all of us have asked: 'Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?' Notice that the Bible does not scold us for asking the question. The Bible puts the question on the page so we will ask it honestly and not in secret.

The Psalm describes the wicked in painful detail. They boast. They prey on the poor. They say in their heart, 'God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it' (verse 11). Every news cycle confirms that this Psalm is still up to date. And yet the Psalmist refuses to leave it there. In verse 14 he turns: 'But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands.'

God is not absent. God is gathering. He is taking it into His hands. The day will come when every account will be settled, every tear will be tallied, every wicked king will be put down, and the orphan and the widow will be given a Father.

Personally, name your 'how long' question to God today. Do not whisper it, pray it. As a church, let us be the kind of people who refuse to be cynical about evil. We pursue Jesus by trusting that He sees, and we make disciples by training our brothers and sisters to lament well. Calvary, hope is not naive. Hope is what we have when we know the Judge.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You see what I cannot fix. I bring my unanswered prayers to You and trust that You are gathering all things into Your hands. Help me wait without becoming bitter.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, give Calvary holy boldness to lament. Train us to bring our 'how long' questions to You, and let our church be a refuge for the orphan, the widow, and the unseen of Columbus.*

Day 10 | Wednesday, May 13, 2026

When Foundations Shake, His Words Are Pure

Reading: Psalm 11 and Psalm 12 (ESV)

These two short Psalms speak to a world that is unraveling. Psalm 11 asks the question: 'If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?' Psalm 12 answers: 'The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.'

When David's friends told him to flee like a bird to the mountain, his answer was, 'In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, Flee like a bird to your mountain?' He refused to let fear set the strategy. The LORD is in His holy temple. The LORD's throne is in heaven. Whatever is shaking down here is not shaking up there.

Psalm 12 keeps going. In a culture full of flattering lips and double hearts, David says God's word stands. Refined seven times. Tested by fire and proven true. Charles Spurgeon called this Psalm 'a precious deposit' for any believer who feels the world go silent on truth. When the headlines are loud and the lies are louder, the Word is purer than ever.

Personally, what foundation are you trusting today? Politics? Bank account? Bloodline? Reputation? Each will fail. Only His Word will stand. As Calvary, our church will not bend the truth to the cultural moment, and we will not panic when the moment shifts. We are a people of the pure Word in a world of refined lies. Build your house on the rock, and invite your neighbors to do the same.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Lord, I refuse to flee. I take refuge in You. Anchor my heart to Your pure Word when the foundations shake under me.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, keep Calvary anchored to Scripture in a culture that prefers flattery. Make our pulpit unwavering and our people unshakable, for the sake of the lost in our city.*

Day 11 | Thursday, May 14, 2026

How Long, O Lord; The Fool Says No

Reading: Psalm 13 and Psalm 14 (ESV)

Psalm 13 is the shortest lament in the Bible and one of the most useful. Four times in the first two verses David asks 'How long?' How long will you forget me. How long will you hide your face. How long must I take counsel in my soul. How long shall my enemy be exalted. Then the Psalm pivots: 'But I have trusted in your steadfast love.' The Hebrew word is *hesed*, covenant love that does not let go. Lament does not end in despair when it is anchored in *hesed*.

Psalm 14 takes a different tone. 'The fool says in his heart, There is no God.' The fool here is not someone with a low IQ. The Hebrew word *nabal* pictures someone morally bent, who lives as if God will not weigh in. Paul quotes this Psalm in Romans 3 to say all of us, apart from grace, fit the description.

Put the two Psalms together. The believer cries 'how long' but trusts in steadfast love. The unbeliever says 'no God' and trusts in himself. Same world, two directions. The cross of Christ is what bridges the gap. He answered our 'how long' with a 'three days' resurrection.

Personally, where are you tempted to live like a practical atheist this week? Where are you forgetting His *hesed*? As a church, we want to be people who lament without leaving God, and who love prodigals without softening God's verdict on sin. Calvary, the gospel is good news because the diagnosis is bad news. Hold both.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I trust Your steadfast love. Anchor my heart in hesed today, and forgive me where I have lived as if You are not weighing in.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a church that laments well and loves boldly. Save the practical atheists in our pews and use us to reach the prodigals in our city.*

Day 12 | Friday, May 15, 2026

Who May Dwell, and the Path of Life

Reading: Psalm 15 and Psalm 16 (ESV)

Psalm 15 asks the searching question, 'O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?' The list that follows is not a checklist for earning salvation, it is a portrait of a transformed heart. The one who walks blamelessly, speaks truth, refuses slander, keeps his word even when it hurts, and refuses bribes. In other words, the kind of person God is making us into.

Psalm 16 is the answer to that question. David says, 'I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.' Then comes the line that Peter and Paul both quote about the resurrection of Jesus: 'For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption' (Acts 2:25-28, Acts 13:35). Psalm 16 is finally about Jesus, the truly blameless One, the truly resurrected One, who alone may dwell on the holy hill, and who carries us up with Him.

The path of life is not earned. It is followed. Personally, who are you keeping at your right hand? Who are you setting before your eyes? Whatever, or whoever, occupies that position is the one shaping you. As Calvary, let us be a people whose conduct in business, neighborhoods, and ball fields matches Psalm 15, because we know Psalm 16. We dwell with God because the resurrected Christ has carried us in. Now we want our character to catch up with our identity.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I set You at my right hand today. Make my walk match my song. Show me where my words and my deals fall short of Psalm 15.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, build Calvary into a community of integrity. May our handshakes, contracts, and conversations be marked by truth, and may our city know us as people whose word means something.*

Day 13 | Saturday, May 16, 2026

The Apple of His Eye

Reading: Psalm 17 (ESV)

Psalm 17 is a prayer for a man who is being hunted. Surrounded by enemies, David asks God to keep him 'as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.' The Hebrew phrase translated apple of the eye is literally 'little man of the eye,' the small reflection you see when someone looks closely at you. To be the apple of His eye is to be that close to God's face. He is bent over you. You are in His pupils.

And then come the wings. The image is a mother bird tucking her chicks under her feathers. It is the same picture Jesus uses in Matthew 23 when He weeps over Jerusalem and says, 'How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing.' The wings have always been ready. The question is our willingness.

Verse 15 ends the Psalm with one of the most beautiful resurrection hopes in the Old Testament: 'As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.' The day is coming when we will wake up and see Him face to face, and we will be satisfied at last.

Personally, are you hiding in the wings, or trying to fight on your own? As a church, may Calvary be the kind of family where new believers, recovering addicts, and tired moms all find safety under the same wings. We do not just talk about being the family of God. We tuck people in.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, hide me in the shadow of Your wings today. Be the closest face to mine. Wake me on the last day to see You and be satisfied.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, gather Calvary under Your wings. Let our church be the kind of place where the weary, the new, and the wandering all find rest, because they have found the wings.*

Day 14 | Sunday, May 17, 2026

Rock, Refuge, and Resounding Praise

Reading: Psalm 18 (ESV)

Psalm 18 appears nearly word-for-word in 2 Samuel 22. It is David's career-spanning praise after God delivered him from Saul and from every other enemy. It is fifty verses of full-volume worship, and it gives us a stack of names for God: my strength, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Spurgeon said this Psalm is 'a coronation anthem.'

Notice the order in verses 6 through 19. David cried, God heard, the earth trembled, the LORD came down, He drew me out of many waters, He brought me out into a broad place. That is the gospel pattern. We cry, He hears, He moves heaven, He pulls us out of deep water, He sets our feet in a wide place. Sometimes the rescue is dramatic. Sometimes it is quiet. Always it is His.

The reason for the rescue is at the end of verse 19: 'because he delighted in me.' That is the heart of grace. He saves not because we earned it, but because He delights to save.

Personally, write your own short version of Psalm 18 today. Name three things the Lord has rescued you from and three names of God that have proven true in your story. As Calvary, on this Lord's Day, let our gathering be a coronation anthem. We sing because He delighted to save us. We worship because the Rock has not moved.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *LORD, You are my rock and my refuge. Today I rehearse Your rescues and lift my voice. You delighted to save me, and I delight to praise You.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, make Calvary's worship a coronation anthem this Sunday. Let every song, prayer, and Scripture reading proclaim that Christ is King and we have been delivered.*

Day 15 | Monday, May 18, 2026

Two Books, One Author

Reading: Psalm 19 (ESV)

C. S. Lewis called Psalm 19 'the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.' It opens with the heavens telling the glory of God. Day to day pours out speech. Night to night reveals knowledge. There is no place where the voice of creation is not heard. This is the book of nature, and every sunrise preaches.

Then the Psalm pivots in verse 7 from the heavens to the Word: 'The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.' Six descriptions of Scripture follow: perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true. Six effects: reviving the soul, making wise the simple, rejoicing the heart, enlightening the eyes, enduring forever, righteous altogether. Creation tells us there is a God. The Word tells us who He is and what He is like.

The Psalm ends in honest confession: 'Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins.' David asks God to clean out what David himself cannot see. That last verse, 'Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,' has been the prayer of preachers for three thousand years.

Personally, take a walk today and let the sky preach. Then open the Word and let it preach louder. As Calvary, our worship will keep both books open. We will not divorce science from Scripture or art from theology. The same God speaks in both, and we want to hear Him in stereo.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, let creation and Your Word both preach to me today. Cleanse my hidden faults and make the meditation of my heart acceptable to You.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, give Calvary ears to hear You in creation and in Scripture. Help us love science, art, and theology together, because every truth is Your truth.*

Day 16 | Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Help in Trouble, Joy in the King

Reading: Psalm 20 and Psalm 21 (ESV)

Psalms 20 and 21 are royal Psalms. They were sung over the king before he went to battle and after God brought him home. Psalm 20 is the prayer before the fight: 'May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!' Psalm 21 is the praise after the rescue: 'O LORD, in your strength the king rejoices, and in your salvation how greatly he exults!'

The hinge verse is Psalm 20:7. 'Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.' Chariots were the cutting-edge weapons of David's day. Today our chariots are different. We trust in our retirement accounts, our resumes, our reps in the gym, our political tribe, our therapist's appointment. None of those are evil. All of them are inadequate. The promise is not that we will never need chariots. The promise is that the LORD will be the rock under the chariots.

Personally, name your chariot today and consciously demote it. Say out loud, 'This is not my trust.' As Calvary, when the church faces a battle (and we will), we will not panic. We will pray Psalm 20, then walk into the fight, and come home singing Psalm 21. Greater is He who is in us than the chariots arrayed against us. Calvary, our King has already won the war.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I name my chariots and renounce them as my hope. I trust in the name of the LORD my God. Strengthen me for whatever battle is in front of me today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, when battles come for Calvary, let us pray before we strategize. Make us a church that walks in by faith and walks out singing of Your salvation.*

Day 17 | Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Forsaken, Yet Trusting

Reading: Psalm 22 (ESV)

Psalm 22 is the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament because Jesus quoted its first line from the cross. 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' The Hebrew is unbearable. The next twenty verses describe the suffering of the Servant in unsettling detail: bones out of joint, heart melting like wax, tongue stuck to the jaws, hands and feet pierced. David never had hands and feet pierced. This is prophetic language a thousand years before crucifixion was invented.

And yet Psalm 22 does not stay in the dark. Verse 22 pivots: 'I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' Hebrews 2:12 quotes that verse and puts it in the mouth of the risen Christ. The forsaken One becomes the worship leader. The pierced One sings in the assembly. By the end of the Psalm, all the families of the nations are worshiping, and a generation yet unborn is told that He has done it.

On the cross, Jesus took the forsakenness so that you would never have to. He prayed Psalm 22 so that you could be folded into Psalm 23. Personally, sit today with the cost of your salvation. As Calvary, let us never preach a cheap gospel. The cross was a real abandonment for a real Savior to bring real sinners to a real Father. Carry hope by carrying the cross. Tell the next generation that He has done it.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Lord Jesus, You were forsaken so I never would be. Thank You. Make Your finished work the deepest comfort of my soul today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, keep the cross at the center of Calvary. May our preaching, our prayers, and our songs proclaim Christ crucified to a generation that desperately needs Him.*

Day 18 | Thursday, May 21, 2026

The Good Shepherd

Reading: Psalm 23 (ESV)

Psalm 22 ends with a Savior dying for the sheep. Psalm 23 begins with a Shepherd leading the sheep. You cannot have one without the other. 'The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.' Six words that have walked saints through funerals, hospital rooms, deployments, divorces, and Sunday mornings for three thousand years.

Phillip Keller, a real shepherd before he became a pastor, said the only sheep that lay down in green pastures are sheep that are fed, watered, free of pests, and safe. The LORD makes us lie down because the LORD has handled all four. He restores our soul. He leads us in paths of righteousness, not because we are valuable, but for His name's sake. Even the valley of the shadow of death is not a place of fear because He is with us. Notice the pronoun shift in verse 4. Up until then, David has been talking about the Shepherd in third person. In the valley, he says, 'You are with me.' Trouble pulls us from theology to relationship.

Then the table is set in the presence of enemies. The cup overflows. Goodness and mercy chase the sheep all the days of life. The Hebrew word for follow, *radaph*, usually means to pursue with intent. Goodness and mercy are not bystanders. They are bird dogs.

Personally, write Psalm 23 in your own words today. As Calvary, let us be the kind of church that under-shepherds well, leading God's people to green pastures and still waters in the name of the Good Shepherd Jesus.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Good Shepherd, I am Yours. Lead me beside still waters, walk with me through every valley, and let goodness and mercy chase me all my days.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, raise up shepherd-leaders at Calvary in every age and stage. Make our pastors, deacons, and group leaders faithful under-shepherds of Your people.*

Day 19 | Friday, May 22, 2026

The King of Glory

Reading: Psalm 24 (ESV)

Psalm 24 was probably sung as the ark of the covenant was carried up to Jerusalem. It opens with a global claim: 'The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.' Every square inch belongs to Him.

Then the question. Who can stand on this holy hill? The answer is sobering: 'He who has clean hands and a pure heart.' Clean hands talk about behavior. Pure heart talks about motive. The Bible always cares about both. The good news is that the only One with truly clean hands and a truly pure heart is Jesus, and He has shared His worthiness with all who trust Him.

The climactic dialogue at the gates is one of the most dramatic moments in the Psalter. 'Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.' The watchmen ask, 'Who is this King of glory?' The answer thunders, 'The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.' Spurgeon believed this Psalm was finally fulfilled when the risen, ascended Christ entered the heavenly throne room and the angels asked, 'Who is this?' The answer is the same. The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.

Personally, what gates of your heart still need to be lifted up to the King? Pride, fear, secret sin, old wounds? Open them today. As Calvary, may every Sunday be a parade of the King of glory entering His people. Lift up your heads, Columbus. The King is coming.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *King of glory, lift up the gates of my heart today. Cleanse my hands, purify my motives, and reign over every room of my life.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, may Calvary throw open every gate to Your reign. Take new ground in our preaching, our families, and our ministries. The King of glory is welcome here.*

Day 20 | Saturday, May 23, 2026

Teach Me Your Paths

Reading: Psalm 25 (ESV)

Psalm 25 is an acrostic prayer. Each verse begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is a poem from A to Z, and the topic is teachability. Twelve times in twenty-two verses David asks God to teach him, lead him, instruct him, make him know, and guide him.

Three lines stand out. Verse 4: 'Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.' Verse 9: 'He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.' And verse 14: 'The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him.' The Hebrew word translated 'friendship' is *sod*, which describes the intimate counsel a king shares with his close confidants. The fear of the LORD is the doorway, not to dread, but to friendship.

There is a tender phrase in verse 7: 'Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!' If you are carrying a wagonload of regrets from earlier years, this is your prayer.

Personally, where are you refusing to be teachable today? Pride is loud in our generation. Humility is the only posture that learns. As Calvary, let us be a church of lifelong learners. Senior saints sitting at the feet of Jesus alongside teenagers, all of us asking the same question: 'Teach us your paths, O LORD.' We make disciples by being disciples first.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, teach me Your paths. Forgive the sins of my youth and lead me, a humble friend of the King, in the way I should go.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a learning church. From our cribs to our recliners, give us a hunger to be taught Your ways and to walk in Your friendship.*

Day 21 | Sunday, May 24, 2026

A Walk of Integrity

Reading: Psalm 26 (ESV)

Psalm 26 sounds bold at first. 'Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity.' Is David bragging? No, he is praying. The Hebrew word for integrity is *tom*, the word for completeness, wholeness, undivided. He is not claiming sinlessness. He is asking God to keep him from a divided heart.

Verse 2 is one of the bravest prayers in the Bible: 'Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.' Most of us avoid that prayer because we are afraid of what God might find. The integrity God produces is not the integrity that resists examination, it is the integrity that invites it.

David then names his liturgy of life. He does not sit with the wicked (verse 4-5). He washes his hands in innocence and goes around the altar (verse 6). He proclaims thanksgiving aloud (verse 7). He loves the habitation of God's house (verse 8). Notice that integrity is built in the altar and the sanctuary. Wholeness happens where God is worshiped.

On this Lord's Day, ask Calvary's God to test your heart and mind. As a church, let us love our gatherings the way David loved the temple. Show up. Sing loud. Take communion seriously. Walk into Calvary as if it is the place where wholeness happens, because for the people of God it is. Build intentional relationships with the saints across the aisle. Integrity is grown in community.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *LORD, prove me. Try my heart and mind today. Make me undivided. Give me a love for Your house and for the people who fill it.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, knit our hearts together at Calvary. May our gathered worship grow our integrity, and our integrity make our worship more honest.*

Day 22 | Monday, May 25, 2026

One Thing

Reading: Psalm 27 (ESV)

Psalm 27 is a Psalm for fearful seasons. David is surrounded by enemies. An army is encamped against him. False witnesses are rising up. And yet the opening line is a thunderclap of confidence: 'The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?'

The hinge of the Psalm is verse 4. 'One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after.' If you could only ask God for one thing this year, what would it be? Most of us would draft a list. David already had his list trimmed: 'that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.' One thing. Presence over performance. Beauty over busyness.

The Psalm ends with the verse you may need today: 'Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!' (verse 14). The Hebrew word qavah pictures a tightly twisted rope. Waiting on the LORD is not lazy. It is intense. It is a hand on the rope, eyes on the horizon.

Personally, what is the one thing you most need to seek? As Calvary, let us be a church of the one thing. We have many ministries, but one priority: the presence of God. We will not trade gazing for grinding. Carry hope by waiting well. The LORD is light. He is salvation. He is enough.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *LORD, You are my light and my stronghold. Today I trim my requests down to one. Show me Your beauty and teach me to wait.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, keep Calvary fixed on one thing: Your presence. Trim what needs trimming so we can gaze on Your beauty as a church family.*

Day 23 | Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Hear My Cry; The Voice of the LORD

Reading: Psalm 28 and Psalm 29 (ESV)

Two Psalms, two volumes. Psalm 28 is a whispered cry: 'To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me.' Psalm 29 is a thunderclap: 'The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders.'

In Psalm 28, David lifts up his hands toward the holy of holies and pleads for God's ear. He needs to be heard. We all do. By verse 6, he is saying, 'Blessed be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.' From a quiet, desperate cry to a confident blessing in seven verses. That is what God's listening does to a soul.

Psalm 29 is what God's voice does to a world. Seven times the phrase 'voice of the LORD' rolls through the Psalm like a coming storm. The voice breaks cedars. The voice flashes flames of fire. The voice shakes the wilderness. The voice makes the deer give birth. And in the temple all cry, 'Glory!' The Psalm ends with a promise: 'May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!'

Personally, ask God to do both today. Hear your whispered cry. Speak His thundering voice into your decisions. As Calvary, let us be a church that cries out and listens up. Our prayer meetings can be intense. Our preaching can be bold. The same voice that shook the wilderness still gives strength and peace to His people. Speak, LORD.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, hear my whispered cry today, and let Your thundering voice settle my soul. Give me strength and peace.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill our prayer meetings with cries of mercy and our pulpit with the thunder of Your Word. Strengthen and bless Calvary with Your peace.*

Day 24 | Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Joy Comes in the Morning

Reading: Psalm 30 (ESV)

Psalm 30 is a song for the dedication of the temple, written by a man who had walked through dark night before dancing in the morning. 'Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning' (verse 5). That single sentence has propped up more saints than we will know until heaven.

David remembers when he had grown overconfident: 'As for me, I said in my prosperity, I shall never be moved' (verse 6). Then God hid His face and David was dismayed. He cried out, 'What profit is there in my death? Will the dust praise you?' (verse 9). He was bargaining with God in the dark, like all of us have done. Then verse 11: 'You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.' The Hebrew word for danced is mahol, the same word used when Miriam led Israel after the Red Sea. This is exodus joy.

Notice that joy did not come because the night ended on its own. Joy came because God turned the mourning into dancing. He was the active one. He loosed the sackcloth. He put on the gladness.

Personally, are you in the night season right now? Hold on. Joy is on the way, because the One who turns mourning into dancing is faithful. As Calvary, let us be a church that holds candles for one another in the long nights, and that dances loud when morning comes. We celebrate every healing, every salvation, every restored marriage. Mourning turned into dancing should always make a sound.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, weeping may tarry for the night, but I trust You for the morning. Loose the sackcloth and clothe me with gladness in Your timing.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, turn mourning into dancing across Calvary. For the families in the night season, sustain them. For the families seeing the morning, let us celebrate loud.*

Day 25 | Thursday, May 28, 2026

Into Your Hand

Reading: Psalm 31 (ESV)

Psalm 31 contains one of the most famous lines in the Bible because Jesus prayed it from the cross. 'Into your hand I commit my spirit' (verse 5). Luke 23:46 records the Savior's last breath as a quotation of David. Stephen prayed a version of it as he was being stoned (Acts 7:59). Christians across two millennia have prayed it over deathbeds and over Monday mornings.

The whole Psalm is a study in fear surrendered. David is surrounded by enemies and slander. 'My times are in your hand,' he says (verse 15). Notice he does not say my times are in my hand. He has stopped trying to manage his calendar from a place of anxiety. He has handed it over.

The Psalm closes with one of the boldest commands of the Psalter: 'Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!' (verse 24). Strength and courage are not produced by self-talk. They are produced by waiting on the LORD.

Personally, write 'My times are in your hand' on a sticky note today. Stick it to your monitor or your dash. Hand over your schedule. As Calvary, we want to be a church that lives with open hands. We hand over our calendars, our wallets, our families, and our ministries to the One whose hand is large enough to hold them all. Pursue Jesus by trusting Him with the clock.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, into Your hand I commit my spirit, my hours, my fears, and my future. My times are in Your hand. Make my heart courageous as I wait.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, teach Calvary to hand it all over. Our calendar, our budget, our buildings, our future. We want our church to live with open hands toward You.*

Day 26 | Friday, May 29, 2026

The Joy of Forgiveness

Reading: Psalm 32 (ESV)

Psalm 32 is the second of the Penitential Psalms, written after David's sin with Bathsheba. The Psalm opens with a beatitude that the Apostle Paul quotes in Romans 4: 'Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity.' That is the gospel in two verses, sung in a major key.

David then describes the agony of unconfessed sin. 'When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer' (verses 3-4). Have you felt that summer drought in your bones? That is grace, painful grace, refusing to let you go.

Then verse 5 turns the page: 'I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.' One verb on our part: confess. One verb on God's part: forgave. Done.

The Psalm ends with God's invitation to learn instead of being broken. 'Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle' (verse 9). Personally, what sin are you still trying to cover? Stop. Confess. Be free. As Calvary, let us be a church where confession is normal, not weird. Build intentional relationships in which we can say hard things and hear, 'Welcome home.'

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I do not want my bones to waste away. I confess my sin to You today. Cover what I cannot cover. Restore the joy of my salvation.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a confessing church. Free us from religious posturing. Let our small groups, our marriages, and our friendships be safe places to be honest with You and with one another.*

Day 27 | Saturday, May 30, 2026

A New Song

Reading: Psalm 33 (ESV)

Psalm 33 is a corporate song of praise. It calls the righteous to shout for joy and to sing a new song with skill. Notice the phrase 'play skillfully' in verse 3. God is pleased when His people give Him their excellence, not their leftovers.

The Psalm rehearses three reasons to sing. First, the Word of God: 'For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness' (verse 4). Second, the work of creation: 'By the word of the LORD the heavens were made' (verse 6). The same word that made galaxies still keeps your heart beating. Third, the sovereignty of God in history: 'The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever' (verses 10-11).

Verse 16 is a sober reminder: 'The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.' Verse 18 turns it: 'Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him.' His eye, not our army, is what saves.

Personally, what is the new song God is teaching you in this season? Write it down. Sing it out. As Calvary, let us be a church that takes worship seriously enough to do it well. Tune the guitar. Practice the harmonies. Read your Bible before you walk in. Bring your best, because we serve a Word-speaking, world-making, history-bending God who is worth a skillful song.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *LORD, teach me a new song this season. Tune my heart to praise. Let me play skillfully for the glory of Your name.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, make Calvary's worship excellent for Your glory. Skilled musicians, prepared singers, ready hearts. Bring Your eye over our gathered praise.*

Day 28 | Sunday, May 31, 2026

Taste and See

Reading: Psalm 34 (ESV)

Psalm 34 is another acrostic, written when David escaped from Abimelech (a throne name for the Philistine king Achish in 1 Samuel 21). David had just pretended to be insane to save his life. He was at his most undignified moment, and he sat down and wrote one of the most quoted Psalms in the Bible.

'I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears' (verse 4). 'This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles' (verse 6). 'The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them' (verse 7). 'Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!' (verse 8). Peter quotes verse 8 in 1 Peter 2:3 to invite new believers to drink the pure milk of the Word.

Verse 18 is a balm for the wounded: 'The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.' If you feel crushed today, He is near. He does not stand at a distance from your suffering. He bends close.

Personally, taste and see. Open your Bible like you would a meal. Slow down. Chew. As Calvary, on this Lord's Day, may our preaching, our songs, and our welcome say one thing: come and taste. The world is full of empty calories. We carry hope by serving the bread of life. The brokenhearted of Columbus are looking for somewhere to lean. Let us be that place.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I taste and see that You are good. Be near to me today, especially in the broken places. Save my crushed spirit and feed my hungry soul.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, may Calvary's table this Sunday be a feast of Your goodness. Draw the brokenhearted to our gathering, and let them taste and see the kindness of Christ.*

Day 29 | Monday, June 1, 2026

Contend, O LORD

Reading: Psalm 35 (ESV)

Psalm 35 is a courtroom Psalm. David is asking God to be his lawyer, his judge, and his rescuer. 'Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me!' We tend to flinch at this kind of prayer because we have never been hunted the way David was. But the principle remains. There are situations in life where you cannot defend yourself, and you have to ask God to do it for you.

Notice three movements. First, David asks for action (verses 1-10). Second, he names the betrayal of false friends who repaid his kindness with malice (verses 11-16). Third, he prays for vindication and worship: 'Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long' (verse 28). Even his lament aims at praise.

Romans 12 commands us not to take our own revenge. Psalm 35 shows us what to do with the energy. We hand it to God. 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,' says the Lord (Romans 12:19). That does not mean we go limp. It means our energy turns from retaliation to prayer.

Personally, name the situation where you have been wronged and you cannot fix it. Hand the file to the Judge today. As Calvary, we can be a church that absorbs criticism without retaliating, because we trust the Judge to handle it. We do not have to win the argument when we know the Lord is contending for His people. Carry hope by trusting the Judge.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *LORD, contend for me. I refuse to take my own vengeance. Vindicate Your name through my life and turn my lament into praise.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, when Calvary is misrepresented, fight for us. Keep our hands clean and our witness clear. Let our enemies, if we have any, see our God in our restraint.*

Day 30 | Tuesday, June 2, 2026

In Your Light We See Light

Reading: Psalm 36 (ESV)

Psalm 36 begins with a bleak diagnosis of the wicked, and then explodes into one of the most beautiful descriptions of God's love in the Bible. Verse 5: 'Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.' Verse 7: 'How precious is your steadfast love, O God!' Verse 9: 'For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.'

Most of us read about the wicked in verses 1-4 and look outward. The honest truth is that without grace, those verses describe us all. There is no fear of God before our eyes. We flatter ourselves. We plot trouble while we lie on the bed. The reason a believer is different is not native goodness, it is sovereign grace.

And then comes the contrast. The hesed of God reaches to the heavens. We take refuge in the shadow of His wings. We feast on the abundance of His house. We drink from the river of His delights. The same God whose love stretches to the clouds is the God who pulls a wicked sinner like me out of the mud.

'In your light do we see light.' We do not generate light. We see by His light. Personally, what part of your life are you trying to figure out in the dark? Pull it into His light today. As Calvary, we want to be a fountain church, where weary souls drink, and a lighted church, where confused souls finally see. The river is open. Bring your friends to drink.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, in Your light I see light. Pour Your hesed over me today. Let me drink from Your fountain and walk in Your shine.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a fountain in Columbus. Let the thirsty come and drink, and let confused minds find clarity in the light of Your face.*

Day 31 | Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Fret Not, Trust In, Delight Yourself

Reading: Psalm 37 (ESV)

Psalm 37 is the wisdom Psalm we all need when the wicked seem to win. It is an acrostic. Each section begins with the next Hebrew letter, like a steady drumbeat reminding us how to live. Three commands stand at the top.

'Fret not yourself because of evildoers' (verse 1). The Hebrew word for fret means to heat up, to burn, to inflame. Most of us know that anxious heat. The Spirit says, do not let it rise.

'Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness' (verse 3). Trust is not passive. It produces doing good and befriending faithfulness. Verse 4: 'Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.' That is not a magic formula for getting what you want. That is the promise that when God is your delight, He becomes the desire that all other desires bend toward.

'Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act' (verse 5). The Hebrew picture is rolling a heavy load off your shoulders onto God's. He carries the weight. He acts.

And in verse 25, the elder David testifies, 'I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.' This is a Psalm to memorize. Personally, where are you fretting? Roll it onto God today. As Calvary, may our church be marked by older saints who say, 'I have been young, now I am old, and God has been faithful.' That testimony is a discipleship gift to our young families.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I refuse to fret. I roll my way onto You today. Be my delight, and shape my desires to match Your will.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, raise up faithful older saints at Calvary whose testimony anchors our young families. Let their decades of trust become our generation's legacy.*

Day 32 | Thursday, June 4, 2026

Owning the Weight

Reading: Psalm 38 (ESV)

Psalm 38 is a hard read because it is so honest. David is sick, in pain, surrounded by enemies, and he knows the suffering is connected to his sin. 'My iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me' (verse 4). 'My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness' (verse 5). This is not the language of self-help. This is the language of a man bringing his real condition to a real God.

Notice that David does not minimize and he does not despair. He owns the weight, and he hopes in the LORD. Verse 15: 'But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.'

The danger of our generation is that we either soft-soap our sin or we drown in it. David does neither. He looks at his iniquity, calls it iniquity, and looks to God to handle what he cannot.

Personally, is there a sin you have minimized? Is there one you have despaired over? Both are wrong. Bring it into the light. Confess specifically. Then wait on the LORD. As Calvary, our voice on sin must match the Bible's voice on sin: serious enough to grieve, gracious enough to forgive. We pursue Jesus by refusing to live in pretense, and we make disciples by helping each other carry burdens that have already been lifted at the cross.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, my iniquities are too heavy for me. I bring them to You without minimizing or despairing. Forgive me. Heal me. Wait at Your feet I will.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, save Calvary from cheap grace and cheap shame. Make us a people who confess sin honestly and rest in the cross deeply.*

Day 33 | Friday, June 5, 2026

Teach Me to Number My Days

Reading: Psalm 39 (ESV)

Psalm 39 is a Psalm about silence and the brevity of life. David starts by saying, 'I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue' (verse 1). He muzzled his mouth in front of the wicked. But his heart was on fire. Eventually it broke out into prayer.

His prayer is striking. 'O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!' (verse 4). He wants God to remind him that life is short, not so he will be morbid, but so he will be wise. Verse 5: 'Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths.' A handbreadth is the width of four fingers. That is your life on God's hand.

If our days are short, our hopes had better be eternal. Verse 7: 'And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.' That single sentence, in eighty years, is enough.

Personally, today look at your hand and remember. A few handbreadths. What you spend your days on says what you actually believe. As Calvary, we want to disciple people for eternity, not entertain them for an hour. Make disciples. Build intentional relationships. Carry hope to neighbors who do not yet know that their handbreadths are running out. The clock matters because the King is coming.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, teach me to number my days. Pull my hopes off the temporary and onto the eternal. My hope is in You.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, give Calvary urgency for the gospel. Our handbreadths are short. Our city's handbreadths are short. Move us off the sidelines and into the harvest.*

Day 34 | Saturday, June 6, 2026

A New Song from the Pit

Reading: Psalm 40 (ESV)

Psalm 40 begins with one of the most pastoral images in the Psalter. 'I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God' (verses 1-3). Pit. Bog. Rock. Song. Four-step grace.

The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 40:6-8 and puts it in the mouth of Jesus: 'Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me... Behold, I have come to do your will, O God' (Hebrews 10:5-7). Psalm 40 is a Psalm of obedience. The greatest obedience in history was Jesus saying yes to the Father at the cross.

And then the Psalm turns honest. 'For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see' (verse 12). Even after the rescue, the saints still struggle. This is real Christianity. Saved. Singing. Sometimes still in the bog.

Personally, write down the pit you were in when God reached down. Pull the new song out and sing it again. As Calvary, we must always remember the pit. Every recovering addict, every prodigal-turned-believer, every new convert is a fresh testimony of the rescuing God. Let our church family stay loud with new songs of grace, because many around us are still in the bog.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *LORD, You drew me up from the pit. Today I sing the new song You put in my mouth. Help me say with Jesus, here I am to do Your will.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Father, let Calvary be loud with rescue stories. Train us to share our testimony, so the people in the bog know there is a Rock and a Rescuer.*

Day 35 | Sunday, June 7, 2026

Blessed Is the One Who Considers the Poor

Reading: Psalm 41 (ESV)

Psalm 41 closes Book One of the Psalter. It opens with a beatitude: 'Blessed is the one who considers the poor!' The Hebrew word translated 'considers' is *sakal*. It means to act wisely, to pay attention, to think carefully. To consider the poor is not to glance at them. It is to study them, learn their stories, and act with wisdom.

Verse 9 is sobering. 'Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.' Jesus quotes that verse in John 13:18 about Judas. The Psalm is finally about Christ, the truly innocent One, betrayed by a friend, vindicated by His Father.

Verse 13 ends Book One with a benediction every Calvary saint should learn: 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.'

Personally, ask yourself today who in your life is the poor person God is calling you to consider with wisdom and care. Maybe it is the materially poor. Maybe it is the lonely widow. Maybe it is your own children who are hungry for time. *Sakal* them. As Calvary, we will not just feed the hungry, we will get to know them. We will not just process people through programs, we will remember names and stories. The Lord's Day is the day to recommit to a church that considers the poor with wisdom. Carry hope by paying attention.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, teach me to consider the poor with wisdom. Open my eyes to the hungry, the lonely, and the forgotten in my own circle. Make me sakal-minded.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, give Calvary a heart for the poor. Move us out of programs and into relationships. Make us a church that knows names and stories in our city.*

Day 36 | Monday, June 8, 2026

Why So Cast Down, O My Soul?

Reading: Psalm 42 and Psalm 43 (ESV)

These two Psalms were originally one song. The same refrain ties them together three times: 'Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.'

The Psalmist is in the north, far from the temple, and his soul is dry. 'As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.' His memory of the worship he used to enjoy is making his current ache worse. He even talks back to himself: 'Why are you cast down, O my soul?' That is biblical self-talk. He is preaching to himself instead of listening to himself.

There is a phrase in Psalm 42:7 that has comforted suffering saints for centuries. 'Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.' The same waves that crash on him are God's waves. They have not slipped past His sovereignty.

Personally, learn to talk to your soul instead of just letting your soul talk to you. When despair speaks, answer it with Scripture. Hope in God. As Calvary, we want to teach a generation how to preach to themselves. Our small groups, our marriages, and our friendships should be places where we keep saying to one another, 'Hope in God.' We pursue Jesus by refusing to let our feelings have the final word.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, when my soul is cast down, I will hope in You. Teach me to preach Your truth to my own heart. Send streams to my dry places.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, train Calvary to preach to ourselves. In our homes, our small groups, and our hospital visits, let our voices speak hope from Your Word.*

Day 37 | Tuesday, June 9, 2026

When You Have Done Right and Things Still Hurt

Reading: Psalm 44 (ESV)

Psalm 44 is a Psalm for righteous sufferers. The community remembers what God did for their ancestors (verses 1-8). Then they describe their current pain: 'But you have rejected us and disgraced us... You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no high price for them' (verses 9, 12). What makes this Psalm unique is the protest in verse 17: 'All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant.'

Sometimes saints suffer because they have sinned. Sometimes saints suffer even though they have been faithful. Paul quotes verse 22 in Romans 8:36: 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' He uses it to say that gospel suffering is real and that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Verse 23 is a startling prayer: 'Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord?' We do not get to talk to a chairman of the board that way. We get to talk to a Father that way.

Personally, if you have been faithful and the bottom dropped out, this Psalm gives you words. Honest, raw, covenantal words. As Calvary, we will not promise prosperity to faithful believers. We will promise the presence of Christ in their suffering. Carry hope to the brother who lost his job, the widow whose phone went silent, the parent whose adult child walked out. Pursue Jesus by sitting with them in the silence.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, even when life does not make sense, I will not let go of Your covenant. Awake to my situation. Be my help.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, give Calvary a theology robust enough for innocent suffering. Train us to sit with hurting saints without rushing them to fake fine.*

Day 38 | Wednesday, June 10, 2026

A Wedding Song for the King

Reading: Psalm 45 (ESV)

Psalm 45 is a wedding song. It celebrates the marriage of the king to his bride. Verse 6 says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.' That is unusual. The Psalmist is addressing the king as God. Hebrews 1:8 quotes this verse and applies it to Jesus, the eternal Son. The wedding language of Psalm 45 finally points to Christ, the Bridegroom, and to His bride, the church.

The Bridegroom in verse 2 is described as 'the most handsome of the sons of men.' He rides out for truth, meekness, and righteousness. The bride in verse 11 is told, 'The king will desire your beauty.' What an astounding sentence. The King desires the beauty of His people. Not because we are inherently beautiful, but because His grace has made us so.

Verses 10-15 describe the procession into the king's presence. The bride is led to him in many-colored robes. Her companions follow. There is music. There is joy. Heaven is preparing a wedding, Revelation 19 calls it the marriage supper of the Lamb, and we are the bride.

Personally, the daily question of every believer is, 'Am I dressing as a bride?' Are you cultivating the beauty of holiness? As Calvary, let us be a church that knows it is engaged. We do not flirt with the world. We belong to the Bridegroom. The wedding day is coming, and we want to be found ready, building intentional relationships with one another so we walk to the altar together.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *King Jesus, I belong to You. Cultivate in me the beauty of holiness. Keep my eyes on the wedding day.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord Jesus, prepare Calvary as a faithful bride. Keep us from flirting with the world. Make us beautiful in the holiness only You provide.*

Day 39 | Thursday, June 11, 2026

A Mighty Fortress

Reading: Psalm 46 (ESV)

Psalm 46 is the Psalm Martin Luther turned into the Reformation hymn 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.' It opens with one of the boldest declarations in Scripture: 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.'

The Psalmist piles up images of catastrophe: earth shaking, mountains falling, waters roaring. And in the middle of the chaos, verse 4 says, 'There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.' A river when the world is flooding. A river when nothing else is calm. The river is the presence of God Himself.

Verse 10 is famous, often quoted out of context: 'Be still, and know that I am God.' The Hebrew literally means 'cease striving, drop your weapons, let your hands fall.' It is not a relaxation technique. It is a battlefield command. Stop fighting. The LORD is exalted among the nations. He will get the glory.

Personally, what are you striving against today that God is asking you to stop? Drop the weapon. Drink from the river. As Calvary, this Psalm will preach in every season our church walks through. When the cultural mountains move, when the city floods around us, the river that gladdens the city of God still runs. The LORD of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You are my refuge and strength. I drop my weapons. Be still my soul. The LORD of hosts is with me.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, when our city shakes, anchor Calvary in You. Let our church be a city of God where the river of Your Spirit runs deep, no matter what is happening outside.*

Day 40 | Friday, June 12, 2026

God the King of All the Earth

Reading: Psalm 47 and Psalm 48 (ESV)

Psalm 47 calls all peoples to clap their hands and shout to God with loud songs of joy. It is one of the great enthronement Psalms. 'God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne' (verse 8). This is a global Psalm. Not just the Hebrews, all peoples. Sing praises with a psalm. Five times in two short Psalms the command rings out: sing praises.

Psalm 48 picks up the song. 'Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth' (verses 1-2). The Psalmist invites the saints to walk around Zion and count its towers, consider its ramparts, go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God.

Did you catch that? Take a tour. Look around. Then tell the next generation what God has done. Worship is not the end of the line. It is the start of a discipleship pipeline.

Personally, take a moment to walk around your spiritual life and count the towers, the answered prayers, the rescues. Then tell someone younger about them. As Calvary, our worship of the global King should produce global mission. We sing because He reigns over the nations. We sing because the next generation needs to know. Build intentional relationships across the ages so the towers do not get forgotten.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *King of all the earth, I clap with the nations and sing Your praise. Help me count Your faithfulness and tell the next generation.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fuel Calvary's worship with global vision. Let our songs about a reigning King become support for missionaries, witness to neighbors, and stories told to our children.*

Day 41 | Saturday, June 13, 2026

Money, Mortality, and Meaning

Reading: Psalm 49 (ESV)

Psalm 49 is a wisdom Psalm that takes on the question Americans pretend not to think about: what does money buy in the end? 'Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me, those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?' (verses 5-6).

Verse 7 lands a punch: 'Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life.' Wealth cannot buy what we most need. Then verse 15: 'But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.' What money cannot do, God did. He ransomed your soul. The shadow of cross and resurrection is on this Old Testament line.

Verse 17 brings us back down to earth: 'For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him.' You have heard the line, 'You never see a U-Haul behind a hearse.' That is Psalm 49 wisdom.

Personally, sit with your wallet today. What does it say you are trusting? As Calvary, money is one of the most pastoral conversations we will ever have, because Jesus talked about it more than nearly anything else. Generosity is not optional for disciples. We give because we have been ransomed by a price money could never pay. Pursue Jesus by holding your money loosely. Make disciples by training your kids and your friends to do the same.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I cannot ransom myself. Thank You for Christ, who paid what money never could. Loosen my grip on my wallet today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, free Calvary from the love of money. Give us joyful generosity, faithful stewardship, and a witness to our city that we serve a Ransomer, not a wallet.*

Day 42 | Sunday, June 14, 2026

The Mighty One, God the LORD

Reading: Psalm 50 (ESV)

Psalm 50 is the first Psalm in the Psalter attributed to Asaph rather than David. Asaph was a Levite, a worship leader, and his Psalms tend to be sermons set to music. Psalm 50 opens with God Himself summoning the earth to court. 'Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest' (verse 3). This is not a sleepy God.

The trial is for two groups. First, the religious. They have offered sacrifices but their hearts are far from Him. Verse 12: 'If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.' God does not need our offerings. He wants our hearts. Verse 15 gives the antidote to dead religion: 'And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.'

The second group is the wicked, the people who run their mouths against God's Word and against their brothers. Verses 16-21 list the indictments. Then in verse 22 comes the warning: 'Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart.'

On this Lord's Day, walk into Calvary's gathering with reverence. The same God who sat in court in Psalm 50 sits with us when we sing. He is gentle and kind and worthy of awe. Personally, audit your worship. Heart, not just hands. As Calvary, let our gathered worship be more than music. Let it be the response of cleansed hearts to a consuming Fire.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I do not want to offer empty rituals. Take my heart. Cleanse my mouth. Receive my real worship today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary's worship with reverence and joy. Save us from religion that performs and moves us to worship that surrenders.*

Day 43 | Monday, June 15, 2026

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Reading: Psalm 51 (ESV)

Psalm 51 is the most famous Penitential Psalm, written after Nathan confronted David about Bathsheba and Uriah. There is no spin here. 'Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!' (verses 1-2).

Three Hebrew words for sin all show up in the first two verses. Pesha means rebellion, an act of treason. Avon means iniquity, twistedness, the bent of a heart. Chattat means missing the mark. David covers them all. He needs all three forgiven.

Verse 5: 'Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.' That is original sin, plainly stated. Verse 10: 'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.' The Hebrew word for create here is bara, the verb used in Genesis 1:1. Only God can do this kind of cleaning.

Verse 17: 'The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.' If you feel broken today, you are not at a deficit before God. You are at the very thing He receives.

Personally, pray Psalm 51 in your own words. Be honest. Bara me a clean heart. As Calvary, may our church be the kind of place where we treat broken sinners the way Nathan treated David, with truth and grace, leading them to the cross where the cleaning happens.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, have mercy on me. Bara a clean heart in me. Restore the joy of my salvation. I bring You a broken and contrite heart.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a Psalm 51 church. Honest about sin, anchored in mercy, and full of joyful worshipers whose hearts You have made clean.*

Day 44 | Tuesday, June 16, 2026

A Green Olive Tree and a Foolish Heart

Reading: Psalm 52 and Psalm 53 (ESV)

Psalm 52 was written after Doeg the Edomite betrayed David and slaughtered the priests of Nob. David looks at the man who did it and says, 'Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day.' He contrasts the boastful with himself in verse 8: 'But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.' Olive trees in Jerusalem can live for over a thousand years. David is saying, plant me in the house of God and I will outlast the boasters.

Psalm 53 is almost a copy of Psalm 14, with a few changes. 'The fool says in his heart, There is no God.' Spurgeon noticed that some truths are so important that God says them twice in the Psalter. The fool denies God and lives accordingly. The wise believer says, 'Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!' (verse 6). Salvation came out of Zion. His name is Jesus.

Personally, are you putting down green olive tree roots in the house of God? Or are you transient with church, dabbling, drifting? Decide today. Plant. As Calvary, we want to be a green olive tree church. Long-rooted, slow-growing, fruit-bearing. The olive tree is not impressive in a year, but in a hundred years it changes a hillside. Build intentional relationships. Pursue Jesus. Make disciples. Plant olive trees that your great-grandchildren will pick from.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, plant me like a green olive tree in Your house. Let my roots go deep into Your steadfast love and my fruit feed others for years.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, build Calvary like an olive grove. Slow-rooted, long-lasting, fruit-bearing for generations. Let Columbus enjoy our oil and remember Your goodness.*

Day 45 | Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Behold, God Is My Helper

Reading: Psalm 54 and Psalm 55 (ESV)

Psalm 54 was written when the Ziphites betrayed David to Saul. David's prayer is short and clean. 'O God, save me by your name, and vindicate me by your might.' Verse 4 is the heart of the Psalm: 'Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.' Six words to memorize: God is my helper. Lord is the upholder.

Psalm 55 is longer and heavier. 'My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me' (verses 4-5). David has been betrayed by a close friend. 'It is not an enemy who taunts me, then I could bear it... But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend' (verses 12-13). If you have ever been betrayed by someone you trusted, this Psalm gives you words.

Then comes verse 22, perhaps the most quoted line of the Psalm: 'Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.' Peter quotes it in 1 Peter 5:7. The Greek word for cast is the word for hurling something with intent.

Personally, hurl your burden today. Do not just shrug, fling. As Calvary, when our brothers and sisters are betrayed, we sit with them in Psalm 55, and we walk with them to Psalm 55:22. We are a church where burdens get cast and where the cast burdens get held by the Lord.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You are my helper, the upholder of my life. I cast every burden onto You today, even the ones I have been carrying for years.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a burden-casting people. Train us to take real weight to You in prayer, and to walk with one another when betrayal cuts deep.*

Day 46 | Thursday, June 18, 2026

In God I Trust; My Heart Is Steadfast

Reading: Psalm 56 and Psalm 57 (ESV)

Both Psalms today come from David's time as a fugitive. Psalm 56 was written when the Philistines seized him in Gath. Psalm 57 was written when he fled from Saul into a cave. Two cave-prayers, two anchors for our anxious days.

Psalm 56:3 has helped saints for centuries: 'When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.' Notice the order. Fear came first. Trust came second. Trust does not erase the fear. Trust dethrones it. Verse 8: 'You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?' He counts your sleepless nights. He bottles your tears. He logs them in His book.

Psalm 57:7 is even more emphatic. Twice David says, 'My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!' From the cave, he is already practicing the song. He is rehearsing the praise that he will give once daylight comes.

Personally, what cave are you in? When fear comes, decide ahead of time what to do with it. Trust. Sing. Steady your heart on God's character. As Calvary, we will be a church that practices praise in caves. We do not wait until everything is sunny to sing. We sing in the dark, and the dark hates the song. Carry hope by lifting your voice when you would rather hide it.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, when I am afraid I will trust in You. Steady my heart today. Bottle my tears and turn my cave into a sanctuary of praise.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a cave-singing people. When the season is dark, lift our voices anyway, so the world hears what trust sounds like.*

Day 47 | Friday, June 19, 2026

Trusting the Just Judge

Reading: Psalm 58 and Psalm 59 (ESV)

Psalms 58 and 59 are imprecatory Psalms, prayers asking God to judge the wicked. They unsettle modern readers, but the Bible places them on our lips for a reason. The wicked do real damage. God is a real Judge. Honest faith does not pretend evil away.

Psalm 58 is a courtroom Psalm. 'Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods? Do you judge the children of man uprightly?' (verse 1). It exposes corrupt rulers. It begs God to break the teeth of the wicked. The Psalm ends with mankind saying, 'Surely there is a God who judges on earth' (verse 11).

Psalm 59 was written when Saul sent men to kill David in his own house. 'Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me from those who rise up against me.' Verse 16: 'But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.' From a hunted home, David schedules a sunrise praise concert.

These Psalms keep us honest. We do not curse our enemies in the parking lot. We hand them to the Judge. Romans 12 says do not avenge yourselves but leave it to the wrath of God. Personally, where are you tempted to take revenge? Stop. Pray. Hand it over. As Calvary, our witness in this culture grows when we refuse the cycle of retaliation. We trust the Just Judge. We sing the morning song. The wicked will be judged. The righteous will be saved. Both because of the cross.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You are a just Judge. I refuse to take vengeance. I hand the wicked to You and ask You to keep my heart from bitterness.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, train Calvary in righteous trust. Help us name evil clearly, hand it to You, and refuse the world's cycle of retaliation.*

Day 48 | Saturday, June 20, 2026

A Banner and a Higher Rock

Reading: Psalm 60 and Psalm 61 (ESV)

Psalm 60 was written after a national defeat. 'O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; oh, restore us!' (verse 1). The honesty is bracing. David is praying for a nation that has lost. Verse 4: 'You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that they may flee to it from the bow.' The banner of God is the gathering point in a defeat.

Psalm 61 is one of the most tender Psalms in the Psalter. 'From the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.' That is the prayer of every honest soul. We need a rock higher than ourselves. Verse 4: 'Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings!'

Notice the trajectory. Defeat. Banner. Distress. Higher Rock. Tent. Wings. The path of faith is a path of running to God when everything else is failing. He is the banner. He is the rock. He is the tent. He is the wings.

Personally, where is your heart faint today? Tell God you need a rock higher than you. He has one. As Calvary, may our church be a banner over Columbus that says, 'Here is where you flee in defeat. Here is where you find a higher rock. Here is where the tent is open.' Carry hope to a city that has been losing. Many neighbors are crying from the end of the earth. Lift our banner.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, lead me to the rock that is higher than I. When my heart is faint, gather me under Your wings.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, lift Calvary like a banner over Columbus. Let the defeated, the addicted, and the worn-out flee to our church and find Your higher Rock.*

Day 49 | Sunday, June 21, 2026

For God Alone My Soul Waits

Reading: Psalm 62 and Psalm 63 (ESV)

Psalm 62 begins with one of the calmest, most settled lines in the Psalter. 'For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.' The Hebrew word translated 'alone' is *ak*. It means only. There is a single source for my salvation, a single stronghold for my soul. Verse 8: 'Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.'

Psalm 63 was written in the wilderness. 'O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.' Verse 5: 'My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.' Verse 6: 'When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night.'

These two Psalms together teach us how to wait. We wait in silence. We seek with thirst. We meditate at night. We pour out our hearts. We praise with joyful lips.

On this Lord's Day, ask yourself if your soul waits for God alone or if you have other little gods waiting in line. As Calvary, may our gathered worship today be *ak* worship. God alone is our rock. God alone is our salvation. God alone deserves our 'earnestly seek.' Pursue Jesus by trimming the divided loyalties of your heart. He is enough. He really is.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, for You alone my soul waits. Trim my divided loyalties. Earnestly I seek You today, like a thirsty soul in a dry land.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary an *ak* church. God alone our rock, God alone our hope, God alone our song. Trim the idols out of our hearts.*

Day 50 | Monday, June 22, 2026

From Hidden Plots to Crowned Years

Reading: Psalm 64 and Psalm 65 (ESV)

Psalm 64 is a prayer about hidden enemies. 'Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, from the throng of evildoers, who whet their tongues like swords' (verse 1-3). Slander is sharper than steel and sneakier than a sword. The Psalm ends with the assurance that God will turn the tongues of slanderers against themselves and 'all the upright in heart shall exult' (verse 10).

Then comes Psalm 65, one of the most beautiful harvest Psalms in the Bible. 'Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion... O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come' (verses 1-2). Verse 4: 'Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!' Verse 11 is the line for everyone who has watched a year unfold under God's hand: 'You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.'

Imagine that. God's wagon driving across our calendar, dropping grain so heavy that it spills over the wheel ruts. That is His abundance.

Personally, ask God to protect you from the slander of others, and ask Him to grow your gratitude for the abundance He has poured out. Counting His mercies disarms our complaints. As Calvary, we will not let secret plots disturb our worship, and we will not be stingy with thanksgiving. We will sing about the wagon tracks of grace running through our church for the past year. The harvest is coming.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, hide me from secret plots and grow my thankfulness for Your overflowing wagon tracks. Crown my year with Your bounty.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, protect Calvary from slander and stingy hearts. Crown our year with the bounty of new believers, restored marriages, and faithful disciples.*

Day 51 | Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Come and See; Let the Nations Be Glad

Reading: Psalm 66 and Psalm 67 (ESV)

Psalm 66 is an invitation. 'Come and see what God has done; he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man' (verse 5). Verse 12 is the testimony of every saint who has walked through the valley: 'You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.' Through fire. Through water. Out to abundance. The road has hard sections. The destination is good.

Psalm 67 is a missionary Psalm. 'May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us... that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.' The Aaronic blessing of Numbers 6 is here, expanded outward. God blesses His people not so they can hoard the blessing, but so the nations can see it. Verse 7: 'God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!'

Calvary's mission is global because the Bible's mission is global. The blessing is meant to flow.

Personally, write down a 'come and see' moment from your life and share it with someone today. Tell a real story of God moving. As Calvary, may our church live the prayer of Psalm 67. Bless us, Lord, that we may bless the nations. Carry hope to neighbors who do not know the Way. Make disciples by saying out loud what God has done. The world is starving for testimony.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, come and see what You have done in my life. Bless me so that I bless the nations through my words and witness today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, bless Calvary so we can bless Columbus, the nations, and the next generation. Make Your face shine on us for the sake of those who do not yet know You.*

Day 52 | Wednesday, June 24, 2026

A Father to the Fatherless

Reading: Psalm 68 (ESV)

Psalm 68 is one of the great enthronement Psalms. It celebrates God riding through the wilderness like a victorious King. 'God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him' (verse 1). Then comes one of the tenderest descriptions of God in the entire Old Testament: 'Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity' (verses 5-6).

Read those two verses again. Father to the fatherless. Protector of widows. Family for the lonely. Freedom for the prisoner. That is who God is. Not just powerful, tender. Not just sovereign, near.

Verse 18 is quoted by Paul in Ephesians 4:8 about Christ. 'You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train, and receiving gifts among men.' The risen Christ is the conquering King who shares His spoils with the church. The gifts He gave are people: pastors, teachers, evangelists, equipped saints. We are the gifts of His ascension.

Personally, who in your life is fatherless, widowed, solitary, or imprisoned? Step toward them today. As Calvary, the holy habitation of our God is on Macon Road. Father the fatherless of Columbus. Protect the widows in our pews. Settle the solitary in our small groups. Carry hope by being a Psalm 68 church. Pursue Jesus by sharing in His ministry of mercy.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father of the fatherless, lead me toward someone lonely or hurting today. Use me as a small reflection of Your tender power.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a Psalm 68 church. May the orphan, the widow, the lonely, and the captive find a true family in our congregation.*

Day 53 | Thursday, June 25, 2026

Reproach for the Sake of God

Reading: Psalm 69 (ESV)

Psalm 69 is the second most quoted Psalm in the New Testament after Psalm 22, and it is for the same reason. It points us to Christ. 'Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold' (verses 1-2). David has felt it. Jesus drank the cup all the way down.

Verse 9: 'Zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.' John 2:17 quotes the first half about Jesus cleansing the temple. Romans 15:3 quotes the second half about Christ bearing the reproach we deserved.

Verse 21: 'They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.' Matthew 27:34 records the soldiers offering Jesus sour wine on the cross. The Old Testament was written about Him before He arrived.

When suffering comes for the cause of Christ, we are not surprised. The Bible warned us. The cross secured us. The resurrection is our promise.

Personally, where are you experiencing reproach because you belong to Jesus? Awkward conversations at work, eyerolls from family, lost friendships, scoffing on social media. Endure it. Christ has already absorbed the worst. As Calvary, we will not soft-pedal the gospel to dodge reproach. We will preach the cross, love the lost, and bear the reproach with our King.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, when reproach comes because of Christ, let me bear it without bitterness. Thank You that Jesus drank the cup so I never have to.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, give Calvary courage in a culture that mocks the gospel. Help us bear reproach with grace and keep preaching Christ crucified for the sake of the lost.*

Day 54 | Friday, June 26, 2026

Make Haste; Do Not Forsake the Aging

Reading: Psalm 70 and Psalm 71 (ESV)

Psalm 70 is a short, urgent prayer. 'Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me!' Some seasons require long meditation. Some seasons require a one-line cry for help. The Lord receives both.

Psalm 71 is one of the most beautiful Psalms about aging in the Bible. 'Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent' (verse 9). 'O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, to all those to come' (verses 17-18).

Did you catch the lifelong vision? From youth to gray hairs, the saint is proclaiming. The Christian life does not retire. It hands the torch.

Personally, if you are young, find a senior saint and ask them to teach you. If you are senior, find a young person and teach them. As Calvary, we want to be a church across the generations. Boomers loving Gen Alpha. Builders teaching Millennials. Children leading their grandparents back to vibrant faith. Build intentional relationships across the decades, because Psalm 71 is the Bible's vision of healthy church. Make disciples by passing on what God has been teaching you for forty years. The next generation is listening.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, make haste to help me. From my youth You have taught me. Use me to proclaim Your might to the next generation.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, knit Calvary's generations together. Let the gray hair and the high chair worship in the same room and the same family of faith.*

Day 55 | Saturday, June 27, 2026

A King Whose Reign Will Bless the Earth

Reading: Psalm 72 (ESV)

Psalm 72 is a prayer for Solomon, the son of David, but it reads beyond him. No mere king has ever fulfilled it. 'May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!' (verse 8). 'May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!' (verse 11). Solomon was great, but he was not that great. The Psalm describes Solomon's greater Son, Jesus, the King whose reign will bless every tribe.

Notice what the Psalm prays the King will do. Defend the cause of the poor. Crush the oppressor. Bring peace and righteousness. Save the children of the needy. Have pity on the weak. Redeem souls from oppression and violence. Their lives shall be precious in his sight.

That is the kingdom Jesus is building. Not a kingdom of luxury for elites, a kingdom of mercy for the broken.

Verse 17: 'May his name endure forever; his fame continue as long as the sun!' That sentence has been being fulfilled for two thousand years.

Personally, are your prayers shaped by the King's priorities? When you pray for our country and your community, do you pray for the broken to be defended? As Calvary, we will live under the priorities of Psalm 72. Defending the weak, lifting the poor, working for justice and mercy in Jesus' name. Carry hope by carrying the King's heart.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *King Jesus, may Your reign bless every corner of my life. Shape my prayers around Your priorities for the poor, the weak, and the lost.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, align Calvary with the kingdom of Your Son. Let our ministries reflect His mercy for the poor, the weak, and the oppressed of Columbus.*

Day 56 | Sunday, June 28, 2026

When the Wicked Prosper

Reading: Psalm 73 (ESV)

Psalm 73 is the most honest Psalm in the Psalter about the temptation to envy the wicked. Asaph confesses, 'My feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked' (verses 2-3). He looked around at the people running over others to get rich and felt his faith slipping.

Then verse 17 changes everything. 'Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.' He walked into worship, lifted his eyes off the headlines, fixed them on God, and his perspective was reset. The sanctuary saved his soul.

Verses 25-26 are some of the most tender lines in Scripture. 'Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.' Charles Spurgeon called this 'the believer's testimony when he is about to die.'

On the Lord's Day, this is exactly why we gather. We come into the sanctuary with feet that have almost slipped, and we leave with our hearts steadied by the presence of God. Personally, walk into Calvary today knowing why you came. As a church, may our gathered worship rescue saints whose envy is about to drown them. Pursue Jesus together, and let us all walk out singing, 'God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.'

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, when I envy the wicked, draw me into Your sanctuary. Whom have I in heaven but You? You are my portion forever.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary's gatherings sanctuaries that reset weary souls. Save those whose feet are slipping and remind us that You are our portion.*

Day 57 | Monday, June 29, 2026

Remembering When the Sanctuary Burns

Reading: Psalm 74 (ESV)

Psalm 74 was likely written after the Babylonians destroyed the temple in 586 BC. 'O God, why do you cast us off forever? Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?' (verse 1). The Psalmist walks through the rubble of the holy place. 'They set your sanctuary on fire; they profaned the dwelling place of your name' (verse 7).

Then a remarkable hinge in verse 12: 'Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.' Even in the ruins, the Psalmist remembers the deeper story. He recounts God parting the sea, crushing Leviathan, establishing the sun and moon, setting all the boundaries of the earth. The God who did all that has not lost His grip just because the temple is rubble.

We may not have lost a building like that, but we have lost things. Marriages we fought to save. Children who walked away. Friends who buried us. Health that did not come back. Psalm 74 hands us a way to pray when we are sitting in the rubble.

Personally, write a list of God's acts in your story. Get specific. The crossings, the rescues, the provisions. Then ask Him to act again. As Calvary, when our church has hard seasons, we will rehearse God's bigger story. We pursue Jesus by remembering. Make disciples who know how to pray with one foot in the rubble and the other foot on the rock of God's track record.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You are my King from of old. When I sit in rubble, remind me of Your works. Act again on my behalf.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, when Calvary walks through hard seasons, anchor us in Your bigger story. Let our remembering fuel our trusting.*

Day 58 | Tuesday, June 30, 2026

God Is the Judge; God Is to Be Feared

Reading: Psalm 75 and Psalm 76 (ESV)

Psalm 75 settles the question of who runs the world. 'It is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs' (verses 7-8). The cup of God's judgment is real. Jesus drank it dry on the cross for everyone who trusts Him.

Psalm 76 celebrates God's victory over a hostile army. 'In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion. There he broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war' (verses 2-3). When God shows up, weapons break.

Verse 10 is striking: 'Surely the wrath of man shall praise you; the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt.' Even human anger is somehow turned to God's praise. The cross is the ultimate proof. Wicked men murdered the Son of God, and God turned that very act into the salvation of the world.

Personally, do you live like God is the Judge? Or do you secretly think you are? Lay down the gavel today. As Calvary, we will not be a church that fears human powers more than we fear the Lord. Senators and CEOs come and go. The Judge of all the earth abides. Carry hope by trusting His verdict. Pursue Jesus, the One who drained the cup so we never will.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You are the Judge. I lay down my own gavel. Help me fear You more than I fear any human power.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, root Calvary in the fear of the Lord. Let our church show our city what it looks like to honor You above every human ruler.*

Day 59 | Wednesday, July 1, 2026

I Will Remember the Deeds of the LORD

Reading: Psalm 77 (ESV)

Asaph cries out in the night and finds no comfort. 'My soul refuses to be comforted. When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints' (verses 2-3). Even his thinking about God is making him groan. Have you ever been there? Where prayer feels like work and the songs sound thin?

Verses 7-9 are the questions the suffering saint asks: 'Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? Has his steadfast love forever ceased?' Then verse 10: 'I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High.' He decides to fight despair with memory.

From verse 11 on, Asaph rehearses what God has done. 'I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.' He preaches the Red Sea sermon to himself. 'Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen' (verse 19). God led His people through impossible water. The footprints were not seen, but the people made it.

Personally, when feelings betray you, fight back with memory. Open a journal, list a few rescues, rehearse them out loud. As Calvary, in our small groups and Sunday gatherings, we will tell stories. Stories of conversions, healings, marriages restored, prayers answered. The next generation needs to know that He still parts seas. Carry hope by remembering.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, when I cannot feel You, help me remember You. Drag my mind to Your past faithfulness so my heart can trust again.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary's life together with memorial stones. Stories of Your faithfulness preached aloud, so the next generation knows Your wonders.*

Day 60 | Thursday, July 2, 2026

Tell the Coming Generation

Reading: Psalm 78 (ESV)

Psalm 78 is a long teaching Psalm in 72 verses. Its purpose is stated up front: 'I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD' (verses 2-4).

Asaph then tells the story of Israel's journey from Egypt through the wilderness into the land. He does not airbrush the sin. They forgot. They tested God. They turned back in the day of battle. They did not believe in God or trust His saving power. And yet God in His compassion atoned for their iniquity, restrained His anger, and remembered they were but flesh.

The Psalm ends in a beautiful paradox. Israel rebelled, judges fell, kings failed, and then 'he chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds' (verse 70). The story bends toward David, and David's story bends toward the Greater David, Jesus Christ.

Personally, what story of God's faithfulness are you telling your children, your grandchildren, your spiritual children at Calvary? If you do not tell, the world will. As Calvary, we are a church that takes generational discipleship seriously. We bring our kids into the room. We tell them the dark sayings of old, the rescues, the warnings, the cross. Make disciples who will tell their children. The story does not stop with you.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, give me a story-telling tongue. Help me speak Your works to my family and my friends so the next generation knows.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a generational church. From nursery to Senior Adults, let every age tell the next age what You have done.*

Day 61 | Friday, July 3, 2026

Restore Us, O God

Reading: Psalm 79 and Psalm 80 (ESV)

Psalm 79 grieves the destruction of Jerusalem. 'O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins' (verse 1). Verse 9 captures the heart of the prayer: 'Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!' The petition is for God to act for His own name's sake, even when His people deserve nothing.

Psalm 80 keeps repeating one prayer: 'Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!' That refrain comes three times, in verses 3, 7, and 19. Restoration is the Bible's recurring theme. Sin breaks. Grace restores. The face of God shining is the face of the Father lifted up over the prodigal coming home.

Verse 17 prays, 'Let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!' The Christian eye sees Jesus there. The Son of Man at the right hand of God is the answer to the restoration prayer.

Personally, what part of your life is in ruins? Marriage? Faith? A relationship with a child? Pray Psalm 80 over it. Restore us, O God. As Calvary, we believe restoration is still happening. Marriages can be put back together. Wandering kids can come home. Broken faith can be revived. Carry hope by praying restoration over the families and people in our church.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, restore me. Let Your face shine that I may be saved. Heal what is in ruins in my life by the strong hand of Your Son.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, restore Calvary. Let Your face shine on our marriages, our families, our wandering members. Heal the ruins among us.*

Day 62 | Saturday, July 4, 2026

Open Wide Your Mouth

Reading: Psalm 81 and Psalm 82 (ESV)

Psalm 81 calls Israel to feast and remember. 'Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!' The festival is going up, and God reminds them of the deliverance from Egypt. Verse 10 contains an astonishing invitation: 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.' What a generous God. He invites you to want more from Him.

Psalm 82 turns to the courts. 'God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment.' The 'gods' here are most likely human judges who pretend to wield ultimate authority. God indicts them: 'Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute' (verse 3). Then He rules: 'They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.'

Personally, are you opening your mouth wide? Or are you settling for crumbs because you do not believe God will fill you? Ask big today. As a church, on this national holiday weekend, let us also remember Psalm 82. We pray for our judges, our courts, our representatives. We ask God for justice for the weak. We want America to be the kind of place where the fatherless are defended. Carry hope by both praying big personal prayers and big national prayers. Our God hears them all.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I open my mouth wide. Fill me with more of Your presence, more of Your Word, more of Your power than I have ever known.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, this Independence Day weekend, give justice in our courts and integrity in our leaders. Make Calvary a voice for the weak and a witness to Your throne.*

Day 63 | Sunday, July 5, 2026

Better One Day in Your Courts

Reading: Psalm 83 and Psalm 84 (ESV)

Psalm 83 is the last Psalm of Asaph. It is a national emergency prayer when surrounding nations conspire against Israel. 'O God, do not keep silence; do not hold your peace or be still, O God!' (verse 1). Asaph names the threats by country and asks God to deal with them. The Psalm ends with the goal that 'they may know that you alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth' (verse 18).

Then Psalm 84 lifts our eyes to a better country. 'How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God' (verses 1-2). Verse 10: 'For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.' Verse 11: 'For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.'

On this Lord's Day, walk into Calvary believing that one day in His courts is better than a thousand anywhere else. Beach, ball game, mountain cabin, you name it. Sunday is the best day of the week.

Personally, examine your eagerness for worship. Have you let it grow casual? As Calvary, may we never get over the privilege of gathered worship. Build intentional relationships in the lobby. Linger after the service. Treat each Sunday like the gift it is. Carry hope by being here.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, one day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Stir up my hunger for Your presence. Make Sunday my favorite day.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, may Calvary's gatherings feel like home to weary saints. Make our courts so lovely that visitors say, 'Surely God is in this place.'*

Day 64 | Monday, July 6, 2026

Steadfast Love and Faithfulness Meet

Reading: Psalm 85 and Psalm 86 (ESV)

Psalm 85 contains one of the most beautiful theological lines in Scripture: 'Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other' (verse 10). Sin had separated them, but at Calvary's Calvary, the cross of Christ, they all came together. God's love met His justice. His righteousness embraced our peace. Jesus made the meeting place.

The Psalm asks, 'Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?' (verse 6). Revival is not first about emotions or numbers. It is the people of God rejoicing in God again.

Psalm 86 is a personal prayer of David. He calls God 'good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you' (verse 5). Verse 11 is a request worth memorizing: 'Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.'

A united heart is a focused heart. Most of us have divided hearts. We love God and we love what God hates. We want Christ and we want comfort. The cure is the prayer of David: unite my heart.

Personally, ask God today to unite your heart. As Calvary, ask God to revive us again. We do not need a fresh program. We need a fresh awe. We do not need a new logo. We need a renewed love. Pray Psalm 85 and 86 over the church family every day this week.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, unite my heart to fear Your name. Revive me again. Let me dance again at Your steadfast love and faithfulness meeting in Christ.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, revive Calvary. Unite our church's heart around You. Restore our awe, our love, and our hunger for Your presence.*

Day 65 | Tuesday, July 7, 2026

A Citizen of Zion; Acquainted with Darkness

Reading: Psalm 87 and Psalm 88 (ESV)

Psalm 87 is short, joyful, and global. 'Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God' (verse 3). The Psalm imagines the LORD recording the names of citizens, and surprisingly the citizens come from Babylon, Egypt, Philistia, Tyre, Cush. Even the enemies of Israel are written into the city of God. That is the gospel a thousand years before it arrived.

Psalm 88 is the darkest Psalm in the Bible. It is the only Psalm that begins in lament and ends in lament. 'My soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol... Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me' (verses 3, 16). The Psalm ends with a single word in Hebrew, *choshek*, which means darkness. The Spirit included this Psalm in our Bible to give voice to the saint who is in a season that does not end with a sunrise.

If Psalm 88 is your Psalm right now, you are not outside of God's care. You are in His Bible. He gave you the words.

Personally, if you know someone in a Psalm 88 season, do not preach at them. Sit with them. As Calvary, we will be a church that allows hard Psalms to be prayed. We do not paste smiles over depression. We do not weaponize Romans 8 to silence grief. We let Psalm 88 lament, and we keep showing up. Carry hope by sitting in the dark with people you love until the Light breaks.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You are God of the day and the night. When my Psalm 88 seasons come, give me grace to keep crying out, even in the dark.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, train Calvary to sit with the suffering. Help us be present for our Psalm 88 brothers and sisters without rushing them to a fix.*

Day 66 | Wednesday, July 8, 2026

A Covenant That Will Not Fail

Reading: Psalm 89 (ESV)

Psalm 89 is the final Psalm of Book Three. It is fifty-two verses long, and it asks the deepest question of the Old Testament: God, did You break Your promise to David? The Psalm starts in praise: 'I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations' (verse 1). It rehearses God's covenant with David. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one... your offspring I will establish forever, and build your throne for all generations' (verses 3-4).

Then verse 38 turns: 'But now you have cast off and rejected; you are full of wrath against your anointed.' The kingdom of David has crumbled. The Psalmist asks, 'How long, O LORD?' The Psalm ends with a single line of praise that sounds like it was forced through tears: 'Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen' (verse 52).

What feels like an unanswered question for the Psalmist has an answer for us. The covenant with David did not die. It was kept by Jesus. The Son of David has come, He has died and risen, and His throne is forever and ever. The promise survived the crash because the King survived the cross.

Personally, when promises seem to fail, hold the cross. As Calvary, when our church is asked, 'How can you still trust Him?' our answer is simple. Because the empty tomb still stands, and the throne is still occupied.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, when promises seem to fail, anchor me to the cross. The Son of David reigns. I will sing of Your steadfast love forever.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, build Calvary's confidence on the unbreakable throne of Christ. Let our witness in Columbus rise on the certainty of His reign.*

Day 67 | Thursday, July 9, 2026

Teach Us to Number Our Days

Reading: Psalm 90 (ESV)

Psalm 90 is the only Psalm written by Moses. It is the oldest Psalm in the book, and it sounds like it. 'Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God' (verses 1-2). This is theology written by the man who saw the burning bush and the parted sea.

Verse 4 puts our calendar in perspective: 'For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.' Then verse 10: 'The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty.' Be honest, the average life is short. Verse 12: 'So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.'

Notice it is a heart of wisdom, not just a head full of facts. Numbering our days produces character, not just calendar awareness.

Verse 17 is the prayer for every Christian's vocation: 'Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!' Personally, ask God to establish the work of your hands today. Make your work matter for eternity. As Calvary, may every job, classroom, kitchen, and ministry be a place where the favor of the Lord rests. Make disciples by teaching the next generation to number their days. The clock is loud.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, teach me to number my days. Establish the work of my hands. Let everything I do today count for eternity.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, establish the work of our hands at Calvary. May every ministry, gathering, and decision bear eternal fruit by Your favor.*

Day 68 | Friday, July 10, 2026

He Will Cover You With His Pinions

Reading: Psalm 91 (ESV)

Psalm 91 is the Psalm soldiers carry into battle and saints whisper at hospital bedsides. 'He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.' The Psalm uses four names of God in two verses: Most High (Elyon), Almighty (Shaddai), LORD (Yahweh), my God (Elohim). Four names because four corners of God cover us.

'He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge' (verse 4). Pinions are the long, strong feathers of a bird's wing. The image is intimate. We are not just protected, we are enfolded.

Verses 11-12 are quoted by the devil to Jesus in Matthew 4. Even Satan knows this Psalm. He misuses it to tempt Jesus to test the Father. Jesus refuses. The promise is that we will be kept in His ways, not that we get to use Him as a safety net for our presumption.

The Psalm ends with seven promises in three verses, all in the first-person voice of God: 'I will deliver him; I will protect him... I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.' Personally, sit with that paragraph today. Let those promises preach. As Calvary, let us be a church covered by His pinions. We do not parade our trouble, we hide in His wings, and we point our city to the same shelter.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Most High, Almighty, LORD, my God, cover me with Your pinions today. I dwell in the shelter, I abide in the shadow. Be my refuge.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, cover Calvary under Your wings. Protect our families, our staff, our missionaries. Be the shelter our city is searching for.*

Day 69 | Saturday, July 11, 2026

A Song for the Sabbath

Reading: Psalm 92 and Psalm 93 (ESV)

Psalm 92 is the only Psalm whose title says it is for the Sabbath. 'It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night' (verses 1-2). Sabbath is for thanks. It is also for rehearsing God's character morning and night.

Verse 12 is one of the most encouraging promises about long discipleship: 'The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon... They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green.' Old saints are not fading. They are flourishing. Sap is still rising in the seventy-year-old. Fruit is still being borne in the eighty-year-old.

Psalm 93 is short and majestic. 'The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty.' Verse 4: 'Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty!' The waves cannot drown the throne. The flood cannot move the King.

Personally, are you flourishing or fading? It is not just about age. It is about whether you are still planted in the house of the LORD. Plant yourself again today. As Calvary, may our older saints be the visible proof of Psalm 92. Still juicy, still green, still bearing fruit. The next generation needs them. Build intentional relationships across the generations. Carry hope by being a flourishing tree.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, plant me in Your house so that I will still bear fruit in old age. Keep me green and full of sap until I see Your face.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary with flourishing trees. Old and young, still bearing fruit, still standing through floods, still rooted in You.*

Day 70 | Sunday, July 12, 2026

O Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Reading: Psalm 94 and Psalm 95 (ESV)

Psalm 94 is a cry for justice: 'O LORD, God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, shine forth!' But notice verse 19: 'When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.' The God who judges the wicked also consoles the worried. Both are in the same Psalm.

Psalm 95 is one of the most quoted call-to-worship Psalms in the Bible. 'Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!... Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!' The Hebrew verbs increase in posture. Singing, then making a joyful noise, then worshipping, then bowing down, then kneeling.

The Psalm shifts in verse 7: 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.' Hebrews 3-4 quotes this verse repeatedly to call the church to a present-tense response. The Sabbath rest is still open. Today is the right day.

On this Lord's Day, walk into Calvary's gathering with this verse on your lips. Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart. Personally, are there any places where your heart has begun to crust over? Repent today. As Calvary, our worship will not be a spectator sport. We sing. We make joyful noise. We bow. We kneel. We listen. Today is the day.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, today, if I hear Your voice, I will not harden my heart. Soften me. Console me. Let me bow and kneel before You, my Maker.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary's gathering a true assembly of worshipers today. Let no one leave hardened. Speak, and we will listen.*

Day 71 | Monday, July 13, 2026

Sing a New Song; the LORD Reigns

Reading: Psalm 96 and Psalm 97 (ESV)

Psalm 96 starts with a global call: 'Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!' Three times in the first three verses, the Psalmist says 'sing.' Verse 3: 'Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!' This is missions before the word missions existed.

Psalm 97 begins with the Psalter's most repeated declaration: 'The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!' Verse 10: 'O you who love the LORD, hate evil!' Love and hate are wired together for the Christian. We love God, so we hate what destroys His image-bearers. We love mercy, so we hate injustice.

Verse 11 is one of the most encouraging lines in the Psalter: 'Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.' Light and joy are seeds. The fruit comes after the planting season.

Personally, what new song is God writing in your life? What ground is He sowing right now? Trust Him for the harvest. As Calvary, let our worship be loud enough to declare God's glory among the coastlands. We carry hope to neighbors who do not yet know that the LORD reigns. Light is being sown in our city. Joy is on its way. Pursue Jesus by singing, and make disciples by inviting your friends into the song.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, sow light and joy in my life today. Give me a new song to sing among my coworkers and neighbors.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary with new songs and faithful witness. Let our church be a planting ground of light and joy for our city.*

Day 72 | Tuesday, July 14, 2026

He Comes to Judge the Earth in Righteousness

Reading: Psalm 98 and Psalm 99 (ESV)

Psalm 98 is one of the most joyful Psalms in the book. 'Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!' Verse 4: 'Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!' Even the sea, the rivers, and the hills join in. The whole creation worships.

Verse 9 ends the Psalm with the reason for the singing: 'For he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.' The hymn 'Joy to the World' is built on this Psalm. The coming of Christ both as Savior and as Judge is the source of creation's joy.

Psalm 99 keeps thundering: 'The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!' Three times the Psalm says 'Holy is he!' (verses 3, 5, 9). Holiness is who God is. Holiness is what we worship. Holiness is what we are being shaped into.

Personally, do you tremble before this God? Not with terror, with reverence. As Calvary, our worship should produce both joy and awe at the same time. Not flippant, not gloomy. Reverent and full of hope. Carry hope by speaking honestly about a holy and gracious God to our neighbors. Many of them have only met cartoon versions of God. Show them the real one.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Holy Father, I bow before You. Joy and awe together fill my heart today. Make me holy as You are holy.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a holy church. Reverent and joyful, full of awe and full of hope. Let the holiness of our God shine through us.*

Day 73 | Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving

Reading: Psalm 100 and Psalm 101 (ESV)

Psalm 100 is one of the shortest, most loved Psalms. 'Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.' Five verses. Five hundred Sunday school memories.

Verse 4: 'Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!' Thanksgiving is the doorway. Many of us walk into worship grumpy because we walked in ungrateful. Try the Psalm 100 entrance.

Psalm 101 is David's leadership Psalm. 'I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will make music. I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house' (verses 1-2). David is making private commitments before public ministry. He decides what kind of king he will be.

Personally, write down your own version of Psalm 101. Promises to your spouse, your children, your colleagues, your church. Then keep them. As Calvary, leadership at every level, deacons, elders, group leaders, parents, will sound like Psalm 101. Integrity in the house. No worthless thing before our eyes. Faithful people gathered for the work. Make disciples by living disciple-worthy lives at home.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I enter Your gates with thanksgiving. Today I commit to walk with integrity in my house, Psalm 101 style. Help me keep my word.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, raise up Psalm 101 leaders at Calvary. Faithful, integrous, blameless in their homes. Let our leaders model the discipleship we preach.*

Day 74 | Thursday, July 16, 2026

You Will Have Pity on Zion

Reading: Psalm 102 (ESV)

Psalm 102 is the fifth Penitential Psalm. The title even says it: 'A prayer of one afflicted, when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the LORD.' Verse 7: 'I lie awake; I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop.' If you have ever been awake at three in the morning unable to turn off your mind, this verse was written for you.

Verse 11 is a stark image: 'My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.' The Psalm is honest about the brevity and frailty of human life. But it does not stop there. Verse 12 turns: 'But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; you are remembered throughout all generations.' Our days are short. His days are eternal.

Verses 25-27 are quoted in Hebrews 1:10-12 about Jesus Christ. 'Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.' The eternal Son is the Creator. He outlasts the universe. He will roll up the heavens like a garment, and we who belong to Him will dwell with Him forever.

Personally, when sleeplessness comes, swap your scrolling for Scripture. Let the eternal God settle your sparrow heart. As Calvary, we will be a church that pities Zion. We will pray for our church family by name. We will love the lonely sparrows in our pews on Sunday and check on them on Tuesday. Carry hope by being friends to the friendless.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, when I lie awake like a lonely sparrow, fix my eyes on Your eternal throne. Use my short days for Your unending kingdom.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, send Calvary into the lives of the lonely. Make us a church family for the friendless, a phone call for the forgotten.*

Day 75 | Friday, July 17, 2026

Bless the LORD, O My Soul

Reading: Psalm 103 (ESV)

Psalm 103 is one of the most beloved Psalms in the Bible. David starts by talking to himself: 'Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!' He then lists the benefits: forgiveness of all your iniquity, healing of all your diseases, redemption of your life from the pit, crowning with steadfast love and mercy, satisfaction with good, renewal of your youth like the eagle's.

Verse 8: 'The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.' That phrase is rooted in Exodus 34:6, where God revealed His name to Moses. It is the most quoted self-description of God in the Old Testament.

Verse 12 is a comfort for every guilty soul: 'As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.' East and west never meet. He has put your sin where you cannot find it again.

Verses 13-14 are unforgettable: 'As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.' He knows you are not Superman. He has compassion on dust.

Personally, today, talk to your soul. Bless the LORD. List five benefits and rehearse them out loud. As Calvary, may our gathered worship sound like Psalm 103. Forgive me, heal me, redeem me, crown me, satisfy me, renew me, and I will bless Your name.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Bless the LORD, O my soul. You forgive my sin. You heal my hurts. You crown me with love. You remember I am dust. I bless Your holy name today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary's worship with Psalm 103. Forgive us, heal us, satisfy us, and let our blessing of Your name roll across Columbus.*

Day 76 | Saturday, July 18, 2026

How Many Are Your Works

Reading: Psalm 104 (ESV)

Psalm 104 is creation's love letter to its Creator. 'Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great!' The Psalmist walks through Genesis 1 in poetry. Light is His garment. The heavens are His tent. The clouds are His chariot. The wind is His messenger.

Verse 14 takes us to the dinner table: 'You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.' Bread, wine, oil. The Psalm is not embarrassed about ordinary joy.

Verse 24: 'O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.' Walk outside and look up. The same God who hung Jupiter is keeping you alive.

Verse 33: 'I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.' That is a life sentence of worship.

Personally, take a creation walk this weekend. Slow down. Notice. Worship. As Calvary, we love science, art, and outdoor faith. Our God is not afraid of telescopes or microscopes. He made all of it. We pursue Jesus by enjoying His world. Make disciples by teaching your children to delight in the trees, the stars, and the saint's old hymn, 'This Is My Father's World.'

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, how manifold are Your works. Give me eyes to see, a heart to delight, and a song to sing as long as I live.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary with creation joy. Help us steward Your world, enjoy Your gifts, and worship the Creator above the creature.*

Day 77 | Sunday, July 19, 2026

Remember the Wondrous Works

Reading: Psalm 105 (ESV)

Psalm 105 is a long history Psalm. It tells the story of God's faithfulness from Abraham to the conquest of Canaan. Verse 5 is the headline: 'Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.'

The Psalm walks through the patriarchs (verses 8-15), Joseph in Egypt (verses 16-22), the plagues that broke Pharaoh (verses 23-36), and the manna that fed Israel (verses 37-43). Then it lands in verse 45: God brought His people out 'that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!'

Notice the purpose. God did all of those wondrous works so His people would obey. Salvation produces obedience, not the other way around. We do not obey to get saved. We obey because we have been saved.

On this Lord's Day, our gathered worship should rehearse God's wondrous works. We sing about the cross. We celebrate baptisms. We hear the Word that has saved every saint in the room. And then we leave to obey. Personally, what statute or law of God is the Spirit pressing you to obey today? Do it. As Calvary, we are not a feel-good club. We are a community of obedient disciples whose obedience is the overflow of grace, not a substitute for it. Make disciples by following Christ in the unglamorous, daily, obedient ways.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I remember Your wondrous works. Stir up my obedience as the response of a saved soul. Show me what to obey today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a church of grateful obedience. Save us from cheap grace. Let our obedience be visible to a watching city.*

Day 78 | Monday, July 20, 2026

They Forgot the God of Their Salvation

Reading: Psalm 106 (ESV)

If Psalm 105 told the story from God's faithfulness, Psalm 106 tells the same story from Israel's forgetfulness. 'But they soon forgot his works; they did not wait for his counsel' (verse 13). 'They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt' (verse 21). The word 'forgot' is the recurring tragedy of the Psalm.

Verse 1 begins with a call: 'Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!' Verse 4 is the prayer of every honest believer: 'Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help me when you save them.' We are asking to be folded into the work He is already doing.

By verse 23 we read about Moses standing in the breach: 'He said he would destroy them, had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.' Moses was a shadow of the Greater Mediator. Jesus stands in the breach for us today, the eternal high priest who turns away wrath.

Personally, where are you forgetting God? Make a list of His mercies. Stand in the breach in prayer for someone who has forgotten God. As Calvary, our intercession will follow Moses' shoulder pattern. We pray for our city, our prodigals, our enemies. We do not just complain about the culture, we stand in the breach. Pursue Jesus, our Mediator, and pray like Moses.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I will not forget Your works. Remember me when You show favor to Your people. Make me a person who stands in the breach.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, raise up Calvary as a praying church. Help us stand in the breach for Columbus, for our families, and for our wandering loved ones.*

Day 79 | Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Then They Cried to the LORD

Reading: Psalm 107 (ESV)

Psalm 107 tells four stories with the same shape. The wandering. The imprisoned. The sick. The storm-tossed. Each story includes the same pivot phrase: 'Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.' Then comes the same response: 'Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!'

Notice the pattern. Trouble, cry, deliverance, thanksgiving. That is the Christian life on repeat. We are not promised a life without trouble. We are promised an ear that hears our cry.

Verses 23-32 describe a storm at sea so vivid you can feel it. 'Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea... Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.' That is the same scene as Mark 4 with Jesus in the boat. The Lord of Psalm 107 was in the boat.

Personally, what storm is in your life? Cry out today. As Calvary, we are a redeemed community. We share testimonies. We thank the LORD out loud, especially in mixed company. Verse 2: 'Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.' Open your mouth this week and tell someone about your rescue.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I cry to You. Deliver me from this distress. When You bring me through, I will thank You out loud.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary with the redeemed of the LORD saying so. Free our tongues to tell rescue stories that glorify You and reach our city.*

Day 80 | Wednesday, July 22, 2026

My Heart Is Steadfast, O God

Reading: Psalm 108 (ESV)

Psalm 108 is a remix. The first half is from Psalm 57. The second half is from Psalm 60. David takes praise from one season and prayer from another season and stitches them together into one new song. 'My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!' (verses 1-2).

Notice that David is the one waking up the dawn, not the other way around. He is up before the sun, ready to praise. The phrase 'all my being' is the Hebrew word *kabod*, often translated 'glory.' Worship is not just heart, it is glory. Your full weight on the scale of praise.

Verses 12-13 are realistic: 'Oh grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man! With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.' Salvation from man is vain. Salvation from God is sure.

Personally, what season's praise can you stitch with what season's prayer? Take a worship moment from last year and use it to fight the battle of this week. As Calvary, our worship is built on remixed grace. The God who saved us last decade will sustain us this decade. Carry hope by waking the dawn with praise.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, my heart is steadfast. I will wake the dawn with praise. Help me stitch yesterday's grace to today's battle.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, help Calvary remember Your old mercies as fuel for today's worship. Give us steadfast hearts and morning songs.*

Day 81 | Thursday, July 23, 2026

Be Not Silent, O God

Reading: Psalm 109 (ESV)

Psalm 109 is one of the strongest imprecatory Psalms in the Psalter. 'Be not silent, O God of my praise! For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues' (verses 1-2). David asks God for severe judgment on his enemies. It is uncomfortable, and it is honest.

How do we read this as believers under the New Covenant? First, remember that Jesus quoted Psalm 109:8 in Acts 1:20 about Judas. Some judgments in the Psalms have already been answered. Second, remember Romans 12:19: 'Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God.' We hand judgment to the Judge. Third, remember the cross. Every wicked deed will be either covered by the blood of Christ or judged at the throne of Christ. There is no other option.

The Psalm pivots in verse 21: 'But you, O GOD my Lord, deal on my behalf for your name's sake.' David is not asking God to do this for him, but for God's own name. The motive of every right prayer is the glory of God.

Personally, where have you been speaking with lying tongues, even in subtle ways? Repent. Where are you tempted to take vengeance? Hand it over. As Calvary, may our prayers, when they are angry, still be theological. We pray hard, we trust the Judge, and we keep our hands clean.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, deal on my behalf for Your name's sake. Cleanse my tongue from any lying word and keep my heart from vengeance.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, train Calvary to pray hard prayers without becoming a hard people. Glorify Your name through our restraint and Your justice.*

Day 82 | Friday, July 24, 2026

A Priest Forever

Reading: Psalm 110 (ESV)

Psalm 110 is the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament. Twenty-five citations or allusions point to the King-Priest who is greater than David. 'The LORD says to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.' Yahweh is speaking to David's Lord. David's Lord is a divine King. Jesus uses this Psalm to silence the Pharisees in Matthew 22.

Verse 4 introduces the priesthood: 'The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.' The book of Hebrews unpacks this in chapters 5-7. Jesus is not a priest by family lineage. He is a priest by divine oath. He never dies. He never retires. He is a priest forever.

If you have ever felt distant from God, if you have ever felt your sins were too many, this Psalm is for you. The risen Christ is at the right hand of the Father, ever interceding for you. He is your King and your Priest. He has the power to save and the heart to plead.

Personally, do you bring your sins to your Priest? Bring them today. He is on duty. As Calvary, we will lift our eyes off ourselves and onto our King-Priest. Pursue Jesus by trusting His ongoing intercession. Carry hope to people who are crushed under the weight of their failures. The Priest is forever.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Lord Jesus, You are my King and my Priest forever. I bring You my sins today. Plead for me. Reign over me.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord Jesus, intercede for Calvary at the right hand of the Father. Reign in our hearts as King. Plead for us as Priest.*

Day 83 | Saturday, July 25, 2026

The Fear of the LORD; The Blessed Man

Reading: Psalm 111 and Psalm 112 (ESV)

Psalms 111 and 112 are two acrostic Psalms paired in the Hebrew text. Each line begins with the next Hebrew letter. They are companion Psalms. Psalm 111 describes God. Psalm 112 describes the person who fears God. The character of God shapes the character of the worshiper.

Psalm 111:10 is the hinge: 'The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!' That single verse is the doorway to the rest of the Old Testament's wisdom literature.

Psalm 112:1 picks up the thread: 'Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!' Then comes a portrait. The God-fearer is generous (verse 5). His heart is firm, trusting in the LORD (verse 7). He distributes freely to the poor (verse 9). Paul quotes that line in 2 Corinthians 9:9 about Christian giving.

Notice the inheritance. Verse 2: 'His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.' That is a hopeful word for parents and grandparents praying for their family lines.

Personally, audit your life against Psalm 112. Generous? Steady? God-fearing? As Calvary, we want to raise generations of mighty offspring. Not financially mighty, spiritually mighty. Children and grandchildren who delight in His commandments. Build intentional relationships with the kids and youth at our church. We are training a generation.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, plant the fear of the LORD deep in my soul. Make me generous, steady, and unafraid because my heart trusts in You.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, build Calvary as a Psalm 112 people. Generous, steady, mighty offspring shaped by the fear of the LORD.*

Day 84 | Sunday, July 26, 2026

He Raises the Poor; The Earth Trembles

Reading: Psalm 113 and Psalm 114 (ESV)

Psalms 113 through 118 are called the Egyptian Hallel, sung at Passover. Jesus would have sung these very Psalms with His disciples at the Last Supper before going to Gethsemane.

Psalm 113 begins, 'Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!' Verse 5: 'Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.' Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2 echoes this Psalm. Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1 echoes both. God is in the business of lifting up the lowly.

Psalm 114 celebrates the exodus: 'When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language... The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.' Even the geography felt the presence of God. Verse 7: 'Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob.'

On the Lord's Day, our gathered worship should mirror these Psalms. The lowly are lifted. The earth trembles. The redeemed sing. Personally, who is on the ash heap that God is calling you to lift? A friend in addiction recovery? A widow nobody noticed? Step toward them this week. As Calvary, may our gatherings make the heavens look down with delight.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You raise the poor from the dust. Lift my heart, and use me to lift someone today who is on the ash heap.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a church that lifts the lowly. Let the geography of Columbus tremble at the presence of the God who meets with us.*

Day 85 | Monday, July 27, 2026

Not to Us, O LORD, But to Your Name

Reading: Psalm 115 (ESV)

Psalm 115 is a missionary Psalm and a worship Psalm in the same breath. 'Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!' (verse 1). Three times the negative: not to us, not to us. The Psalmist cannot say it strongly enough. We do not want the credit. We want the LORD's name to be glorified.

Verses 4-8 describe the idols of the nations. 'They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see... Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.' Whatever you worship, you become. If your god is silent and blind, your soul will follow. The good news is the inverse: if you worship the living God, you become alive.

Verse 13 is sweet: 'He will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.' No one is too insignificant for the Father's blessing.

Personally, where do you secretly want credit that should go to God? Money, ministry, parenting, looks? Lay it down. As Calvary, may every staff member, volunteer, and member share this prayer: not to us, but to Your name. We do not want our church to be famous. We want Jesus to be famous. Pursue Jesus by taking your hands off the praise that belongs to Him.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, not to me, not to me, but to Your name be glory. Cleanse my heart of self-promotion. Let Your name be magnified through me.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, save Calvary from the worship of our own success. Make Your name famous in Columbus, even if our name is forgotten.*

Day 86 | Tuesday, July 28, 2026

I Love the LORD

Reading: Psalm 116 (ESV)

Psalm 116 is one of the most personal love songs in the Bible. 'I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.' What a sentence. The covenant God of Sinai bends His ear toward an ordinary saint, and the saint says, 'I love the LORD.'

Verse 7 is for the weary soul: 'Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.' Verse 12: 'What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.' Verse 15 is the line that has been read at countless graveside services: 'Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.' He does not lose track of His people in death. Each saint's home-going is precious to Him.

Verse 16: 'I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.' What a thing to be in such a covenant lineage that even your mother is a servant of the LORD before you.

Personally, write your own version of Psalm 116. Why do you love the LORD? Be specific. As Calvary, may our prayers and testimonies be saturated with personal love for God. Not just theological correctness, real, warm affection. We pursue Jesus by loving Him out loud. Make disciples by saying 'I love the LORD' until the next generation believes us.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I love You. You inclined Your ear to me. I will call on You all my days. Today I lift the cup of salvation in joy.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary with people who love You out loud. May our church be marked by personal, warm, audible love for the Savior.*

Day 87 | Wednesday, July 29, 2026

The Stone the Builders Rejected

Reading: Psalm 117 and Psalm 118 (ESV)

Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible. Two verses. 'Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.' Two verses with global reach. Paul quotes it in Romans 15:11 to argue that Gentiles have always been part of God's plan.

Psalm 118 is the longest of the Hallel Psalms and likely the last Psalm Jesus sang before going to the cross. Four times in the Psalm comes the refrain, 'His steadfast love endures forever.' Verse 22 is quoted by Jesus and the apostles repeatedly: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.' That is the gospel in a single sentence. Jesus, rejected by the religious leaders, became the cornerstone of God's new temple, the church.

Verse 24 has been a Sunday morning chorus for generations: 'This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.' That is more than a fridge magnet. It is a defiant decision. Whatever today brings, the LORD made it. Rejoice in it.

Personally, name today as the LORD's day, and rejoice. As Calvary, we are a stone-rejected, cornerstone-anchored church. The world may not understand us. The cornerstone holds. Pursue Jesus by trusting the cornerstone. Make disciples who can sing Hallel even on hard mornings.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, this is the day You have made. I rejoice. Build my life on Christ, the Cornerstone the builders rejected.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, build Calvary on the Cornerstone. Let our church stand firm when culture tries to reject Christ. Let the nations praise Your steadfast love through us.*

Day 88 | Thursday, July 30, 2026

Blessed Are Those Who Walk in His Law

Reading: Psalm 119:1-48 (Aleph through Vav) (ESV)

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. One hundred and seventy-six verses. Twenty-two sections, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Eight verses in each section, every verse beginning with the same Hebrew letter. The whole Psalm is about the Word of God, and the Psalmist uses eight different terms for Scripture: law, testimonies, ways, precepts, statutes, commandments, rules, word.

Today we read sections one through six, Aleph through Vav. The Psalm opens with a beatitude (verses 1-3): 'Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD!' Then comes verse 9, often memorized by youth groups: 'How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.' Verse 11 is the discipleship strategy of every saint: 'I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.'

Verse 18 is the prayer to pray every time you open the Bible: 'Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.' We do not just need a good translation. We need opened eyes.

Verse 32 promises something that the rest of Scripture confirms: 'I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!' An enlarged heart, not a hardened one, is what produces obedient feet.

Personally, choose a verse from today's reading and write it down. Carry it with you. As Calvary, may we be a church that loves the Bible enough to live in it. Pursue Jesus by storing up His Word.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, open my eyes to behold wondrous things in Your law. Store Your Word in my heart. Enlarge my heart to run after You.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, give Calvary a love for the whole Bible. Make us a Word-saturated church where Scripture shapes every meeting, message, and ministry.*

Day 89 | Friday, July 31, 2026

Your Word Is My Comfort

Reading: Psalm 119:49-96 (Zayin through Lamed) (ESV)

Today we read Psalm 119 sections seven through twelve, Zayin through Lamed. The Psalm now turns to comfort and steady hope. Verse 49: 'Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope.' Verse 50: 'This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.' If you have ever stood at a graveside or sat in a hospital waiting room, you know how desperately we need a Word that gives life.

Verse 67 is one of the most honest verses in the Bible: 'Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.' Sometimes the only thing that wakes us up is the affliction. We do not seek the affliction, but we trust the Father who never wastes one.

Verse 71 echoes it: 'It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.' Few of us would say that mid-affliction. The Psalmist says it on the other side. He sees the suffering as the soil where his obedience grew.

Verse 89: 'Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.' The world is shifting. The Word is fixed. Verse 92: 'If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.'

Personally, name a recent affliction. Ask God to teach you a statute through it. As Calvary, we will treasure the Word as our comfort and our anchor. Carry hope by sharing a verse with someone walking through trouble. The Word still gives life.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, Your Word is my comfort and my life. Teach me Your statutes through every affliction. Anchor me to Your fixed Word.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, root Calvary in Your unshakable Word. Make Scripture our common comfort, our common compass, and our common voice.*

Day 90 | Saturday, August 1, 2026

A Lamp to My Feet

Reading: Psalm 119:97-144 (Mem through Tsadhe) (ESV)

Today we read Psalm 119 sections thirteen through eighteen. The famous verses come fast.

Verse 97: 'Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.' Real love produces meditation. We naturally rehearse what we love. If your mind is wandering, follow the trail. Wherever it lands tells you where your heart is.

Verse 103: 'How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!' The Word is not a vitamin, it is dessert.

Verse 105: 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.' This is the most quoted verse in the Psalm. Lamps in the ancient world were small clay vessels with a wick. They lit the next step, not the next mile. The Word usually shows you the next step. Trust Him for the rest.

Verse 130: 'The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.' Notice the comfort. You do not have to be a scholar. The Word makes the simple wise. The unfolding does the work.

Verse 136: 'My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.' Holiness is grieved by sin around it. Calvary, may we be a people who weep over our city's sin without weaponizing our grief.

Personally, what 'next step' is the lamp showing you? Take it. As a church, we will be a Word-loving, sin-grieving, simple-instructing, neighbor-loving people. Pursue Jesus by walking in the lamp light He provides.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, oh how I love Your law. Light my next step today. Make Your Word sweet to my taste, my meditation all the day.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, give Calvary a Psalm 119 hunger. Let love for Your Word produce meditation, obedience, and tears for our city's sin.*

Day 91 | Sunday, August 2, 2026

Like a Lost Sheep

Reading: Psalm 119:145-176 (Qoph through Tav) (ESV)

Today we finish Psalm 119. The Psalm closes with longing and humility. Verse 145: 'With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD!' The whole heart is the only kind God answers. Half-hearted prayers do not reach the throne.

Verse 147: 'I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words.' Verse 148: 'My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise.' The saint is awake when the world is asleep, sitting with the Word.

Verse 165 is a precious promise: 'Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.' Peace and stability are downstream of love for the Word.

And then the surprising final verse: 'I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments' (verse 176). After 175 verses about loving the Word, the Psalmist confesses, 'I am a lost sheep.' That is honest. That is the Christian life. We love the Word, we wander, the Shepherd seeks. Repeat. The Psalm ends not in self-confidence but in needy trust.

On this Lord's Day, walk into worship like a lost sheep being sought. Verse 176 is your invitation. Personally, where have you wandered? Confess. Call the Shepherd. As Calvary, we will be a church for sheep, not a church for shiny saints. Build intentional relationships with the wandering. The Shepherd is still seeking, and He often does His seeking through us.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Seek me. I love Your commandments. Bring me home today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a sheep church. Honest about our wandering, eager to seek the lost, and dependent on the Shepherd to bring us home.*

Day 92 | Monday, August 3, 2026

The Songs of Ascent Begin

Reading: Psalm 120 and Psalm 121 (ESV)

Psalms 120 through 134 are the Songs of Ascents. They were sung by pilgrims as they traveled up to Jerusalem for the great festivals. Fifteen Psalms, one for each step the priests would climb in the temple. They are short, focused, full of longing and joy.

Psalm 120 starts with a problem. 'In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.' The pilgrim is leaving a culture of lies and heading toward the temple, where truth lives.

Psalm 121 is one of the most loved Psalms in the Bible. 'I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.' Pilgrims walking the dangerous mountain roads to Jerusalem looked up at the hills not for help, but past the hills to the Maker of the hills.

Verse 4: 'Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.' He never naps on you. Verse 7: 'The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.' Verse 8: 'The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.'

Personally, what hill is intimidating you today? Look past it to the One who made it. As Calvary, we are a pilgrim people. We are not home yet. We are on the way. Carry hope to fellow pilgrims who are tired of the road. The LORD is keeping all of us.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, my help comes from You, the Maker of heaven and earth. Keep my going out and my coming in today. I am a pilgrim on the way home.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, watch over Calvary on the journey. Keep our families, our staff, our missionaries, and our wanderers, every step home.*

Day 93 | Tuesday, August 4, 2026

I Was Glad When They Said, Let Us Go

Reading: Psalm 122 and Psalm 123 (ESV)

Psalm 122 is the joy of arriving at the temple. 'I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the LORD!' (verse 1). What if every Sunday morning we walked into Calvary with that line on our lips? Glad. Eager. Anticipating.

Verse 6 is a famous verse: 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!' Pilgrims prayed for the city of God to be at peace. We pray for the peace of God's church and for the peace of our cities, knowing that final peace will come when the King returns.

Psalm 123 lifts our eyes one more time: 'To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.' That is a powerful image. The servant watches the master's hand, ready for the slightest signal.

Personally, are you watching God's hand the way a servant watches their master's? Or are you running ahead with your own plans? As Calvary, may every Sunday be a 'glad to go' Sunday. Build intentional relationships in the lobby. Linger after the service. Pray for the peace of our church. We are pilgrims who get to gather. Treasure it.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I am glad to go to Your house. I lift my eyes to You. My hands are ready to follow Your hand.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary with glad hearts every time we gather. Pray peace over our church family and our city.*

Day 94 | Wednesday, August 5, 2026

If the LORD Had Not Been on Our Side

Reading: Psalm 124 and Psalm 125 (ESV)

Psalm 124 begins with a startling thought experiment. 'If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, let Israel now say, if it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive.' Spend a moment imagining your life without the LORD on your side. The Psalm ends in praise: 'Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth' (verse 8).

Psalm 125 is short and stable: 'Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.' Mount Zion does not move. Neither does the believer who trusts the LORD. Verse 2 is a panoramic image: 'As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.'

Notice the picture. The mountains are around Jerusalem. The LORD is around His people. We are a doubly surrounded people, geographically and spiritually.

Personally, do a Psalm 124 review. Where would you be without the LORD? Then write down five 'IF NOT' moments. Worship will rise. As Calvary, we will be Mount Zion saints. Unmoved by cultural tremors. Surrounded by the LORD. Pursue Jesus by trusting the surround. Carry hope to neighbors who feel exposed. The LORD surrounds His people, and He invites all comers.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, if You had not been on my side, where would I be? Surround me today. I trust You like Mount Zion that cannot be moved.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, surround Calvary like the mountains surround Jerusalem. Keep our families, our youth, our young adults stable in You.*

Day 95 | Thursday, August 6, 2026

Tears for Seed; Sons as Arrows

Reading: Psalm 126 and Psalm 127 (ESV)

Psalm 126 captures the joy of restoration. 'When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy' (verses 1-2). Then verse 5: 'Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.' Tears are a kind of seed. The harvest comes.

Psalm 127 is a Psalm of Solomon. 'Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.' That is a verse for every entrepreneur, parent, pastor, and project manager. We can hustle ourselves into exhaustion if the LORD is not the builder.

Verse 3: 'Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.' Verse 4: 'Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.' Children are not interruptions to your real life. They are arrows being aimed at the future.

Personally, what tears are you sowing right now? A wayward child? A struggling marriage? A long, slow ministry assignment? Trust the harvest. As Calvary, we will not raise children casually. We aim them at the kingdom. We support our young families with intentional relationships. We celebrate our young adults. We thank God for the heritage He has entrusted us. Carry hope in the long obedience of parenting and pastoring.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, my tears are seed. I trust You for the harvest. Build what I am building. Aim every arrow in my hand toward Your kingdom.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, build Calvary's church and Calvary's families. Send the harvest in tears sowed long ago. Aim our children like arrows for Your purposes.*

Day 96 | Friday, August 7, 2026

Blessed Family; Long-Plowed Backs

Reading: Psalm 128 and Psalm 129 (ESV)

Psalm 128 is a benediction over the God-fearing home. 'Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.' Olive shoots come up around the parent tree. The picture is a multigenerational family clustered together, fruitful for years.

Psalm 129 is the perspective of the long-suffering saint. 'Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth, let Israel now say, greatly have they afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me. The plowers plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows.' Suffering has cut deep. And yet, 'they have not prevailed.' The Lord has cut the cords of the wicked.

These two Psalms together remind us that the blessed family of Psalm 128 lives in the suffering world of Psalm 129. The home is a haven, but the home is not yet heaven. We need both Psalms.

Personally, pray Psalm 128 over your home and Psalm 129 over your scars. As Calvary, we will support marriages, mentor parents, and bless single saints whose family is the church. The plowed backs in our pews are precious. The olive shoots around our tables are heritage. Pursue Jesus by being a Psalm 128 home and a Psalm 129 testimony.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, bless my home in the fear of the LORD. Cut the cords of the wicked from my life. They will not prevail against Your work in me.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, bless every Calvary home. Steady the plowed backs in our pews. Aim the olive shoots around our tables. Build Your kingdom through our families.*

Day 97 | Saturday, August 8, 2026

Out of the Depths; A Weaned Soul

Reading: Psalm 130 and Psalm 131 (ESV)

Psalm 130 is one of the great Penitential Psalms. 'Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice!' Verse 3 has stopped many a saint in their tracks: 'If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?' The unspoken answer is: not one of us. Then verse 4: 'But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.' Forgiveness produces fear, not flippancy. We tremble, not because we are condemned, but because we have been forgiven.

Verses 5-6 are precious for waiting saints: 'I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.' Two times the watchmen wait. Have you ever pulled an all-nighter? At about 4 AM you start to ache for the sun. That is how the believer waits for the Lord.

Psalm 131 is one of the shortest, sweetest Psalms in the book. 'O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.' A weaned child is no longer crying for milk. It is content simply to be held.

Personally, where are you raising your eyes too high? Calm and quiet your soul today. As Calvary, we want to be a weaned-soul church. Mature, content, dependent. Pursue Jesus by trusting Him with the things too great for you.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, out of the depths I cry to You. There is forgiveness with You. Calm and quiet my soul today like a weaned child.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a quiet, calm, content church. Save us from anxious striving. Wean us into deeper dependence on You alone.*

Day 98 | Sunday, August 9, 2026

When Brothers Dwell in Unity

Reading: Psalm 132 and Psalm 133 (ESV)

Psalm 132 remembers David's commitment to bring the ark to Jerusalem. 'I will not enter my house or get into my bed, I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the LORD' (verses 3-5). David refused to be comfortable until God's presence had a home. May our hearts be that intent on Christ's reign in our lives.

Verse 11 reminds us of God's covenant with David, finally fulfilled in Jesus. 'The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.' Christ on the throne is the answer to Psalm 132's longing.

Psalm 133 is a song about the joy of unity. 'Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!' The Psalm compares unity to anointing oil running down Aaron's beard onto his robes, and to the dew of Hermon falling on the mountains of Zion. The picture is generous, blessed, fragrant.

On the Lord's Day, walk into Calvary with this Psalm in mind. Unity is anointing oil. Disunity stinks. Personally, where have you let bitterness grow toward a brother or sister? Confess and reconcile this week. As Calvary, we will guard our unity like Aaron's robe. We will not let gossip, comparison, or factionalism cheapen what God has knit together. Carry hope to our city by being a church where the world can see brothers and sisters dwell in unity. That is what Jesus prayed for in John 17.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, like David, I will not rest until You have a home in my heart. Anoint our church with the oil of unity. Use me to keep our peace.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord Jesus, You prayed for unity in John 17. Answer that prayer at Calvary. Knit us together so the world will know that the Father sent the Son.*

Day 99 | Monday, August 10, 2026

Lift Up Your Hands

Reading: Psalm 134 and Psalm 135 (ESV)

Psalm 134 is the last of the Songs of Ascents. 'Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD!' (verses 1-2). It is a benediction sung over the priests who served the night shift in the temple. Even night-shift saints get to bless the LORD.

Psalm 135 is a wide-screen worship Psalm. It rehearses God's choice of Israel, His sovereign reign over creation, and His judgment on idols. Verse 6: 'Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.' Verses 15-18 echo Psalm 115 about the lifeless idols of the nations. 'Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them.'

Personally, take inventory of your idols. Whatever you cannot live without, that is what you really worship. Confess and abandon them. As Calvary, may every member of our church family lift up holy hands to bless the LORD. Even the saints serving night shifts in our city, the nurses, the police officers, the truckers, the new parents, are part of God's worship plan. Pursue Jesus around the clock. Carry hope to coworkers on the long shifts who need to know that there is a God who sees them and a Savior who loves them.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I lift my hands to the holy place. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Tear down every idol in my heart and replace it with worship.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary with around-the-clock worship. Bless our night-shift saints. Be glorified in every season and every schedule of our church family.*

Day 100 | Tuesday, August 11, 2026

His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

Reading: Psalm 136 (ESV)

Psalm 136 is the Bible's clearest example of antiphonal worship. The leader announces an act of God. The people respond, 'For his steadfast love endures forever.' Twenty-six times the response repeats. Twenty-six times the truth lands again.

The Psalm walks through creation (verses 4-9), the exodus (verses 10-15), the wilderness (verses 16-22), and current rescue (verses 23-25). Through every scene, the same chorus: His hesed endures forever. We are saved by hesed. We are sustained by hesed. We will be welcomed home by hesed.

There is a reason this is Day 100 of our reading plan. We are still here, still reading, still pursuing Jesus, because His steadfast love has endured. It has not run thin. It has not been spent. It has not been canceled. It will be there at our funeral, the same as it was at our salvation.

Personally, write 26 things you are thankful for today. After each one, say out loud, 'For his steadfast love endures forever.' Try it at the dinner table tonight. As Calvary, may Psalm 136 be a chorus we cannot stop singing. Through births, deaths, marriages, layoffs, salvations, and surgeries, the same thread runs. Hesed forever. Make disciples by giving them this chorus to sing through every season of life.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, Your steadfast love endures forever. Through creation and rescue and the long road, Your hesed has held me. I bless Your name today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, anchor Calvary in Your hesed. May our church's testimony in Columbus be one long song of Your steadfast love that endures forever.*

Day 101 | Wednesday, August 12, 2026

By the Rivers; Bold Praise

Reading: Psalm 137 and Psalm 138 (ESV)

Psalm 137 is one of the saddest Psalms in the Bible. 'By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres' (verses 1-2). The exiles cannot sing the LORD's song in a foreign land. The Psalm ends with a difficult imprecation that we hand over to the just Judge. The honest grief is what the Spirit recorded for us. It teaches us that we can take our heaviest griefs to God, and we do not have to dress them up.

Psalm 138 contrasts Psalm 137 with bold praise. 'I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word' (verses 1-2). Verse 6: 'For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.' Verse 8: 'The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.'

Personally, do you have a Psalm 137 grief and a Psalm 138 trust at the same time? Both can be true on the same day. As Calvary, we will hold space for grief and bold praise side by side. Carry hope to grieving friends without erasing their grief. Pursue Jesus, the One who fulfills the purposes God has begun. Make disciples of people who can lament and worship in the same hour.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You will fulfill Your purpose for me. Hold my grief and my praise together today. Do not forsake the work of Your hands.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, do not forsake the work of Your hands at Calvary. Fulfill Your purpose for our church. Hold our grief and our praise in the same heart.*

Day 102 | Thursday, August 13, 2026

Search Me and Know Me

Reading: Psalm 139 (ESV)

Psalm 139 is one of the most beautiful Psalms about God's intimate knowledge of every life. 'O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar' (verses 1-2). Verse 4: 'Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.' He knows what you are about to say before you say it.

Verse 7: 'Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?' Wherever you go, He is there. Heaven, Sheol, the wings of the morning, the depths of the sea. He has reach.

Verse 13 is a precious word for any soul that has questioned its dignity: 'For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.' Every life from conception is the work of God's hands. This Psalm grounds Christian conviction about the dignity of unborn life and the worth of every human being.

Verse 23: 'Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!' If God already knows everything, why pray this? Because we want to agree with what He sees. We invite His audit.

Personally, pray verses 23-24 today. As Calvary, we are a church that defends life from womb to tomb because every soul is fearfully made. Carry hope by reminding people of their dignity. Pursue Jesus by inviting Him to search you.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, search me and know me. Lead me in the way everlasting. Thank You that I am fearfully and wonderfully made by Your hand.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, make Calvary a Psalm 139 people. Defenders of life, students of dignity, and a church that constantly invites Your search.*

Day 103 | Friday, August 14, 2026

Set a Guard Over My Mouth

Reading: Psalm 140 and Psalm 141 (ESV)

Psalm 140 is a prayer for protection from violent men. David asks God to keep him safe and to bring justice on those whose tongues are sharp like a serpent's. Verse 12: 'I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy.'

Psalm 141 is a sober prayer for personal holiness. Verse 3: 'Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!' That is a prayer pastors should pray every Sunday morning, and that every saint should pray every Monday morning. Verse 5: 'Let a righteous man strike me, it is a kindness; let him rebuke me, it is oil for my head.' To welcome correction is the mark of maturity. To resent every rebuke is the mark of a fool.

Verse 8: 'But my eyes are toward you, O GOD, my Lord; in you I seek refuge.' Refuge is the constant theme of the Psalter. We never grow out of needing it.

Personally, pray verse 3 over yourself today. We can do more damage in a five-minute conversation than we can repair in five years. As Calvary, may we be a tongue-tamed church. We are quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger (James 1:19). Build intentional relationships in which honest correction is welcomed. We grow when we receive feedback like oil on our heads instead of gasoline.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, set a guard over my mouth today. Keep watch over the door of my lips. Make me eager to receive righteous correction.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, give Calvary tamed tongues. Save us from gossip, slander, and harsh speech. Make our words full of grace and truth.*

Day 104 | Saturday, August 15, 2026

I Pour Out My Complaint Before Him

Reading: Psalm 142 and Psalm 143 (ESV)

Psalm 142 was written by David in a cave. 'With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD. I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.' Notice that David does not pour out his complaint to his friends, his social media, or his journal first. He pours it out to God.

Verse 5 is the cave declaration: 'I cry to you, O LORD; I say, You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.' In the cave, David still claims God as his portion. The cave is dark, but God is not.

Psalm 143 is the seventh and final Penitential Psalm. 'Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.' Verse 8: 'Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.'

Verse 10 is one of the most quoted prayers in spiritual direction: 'Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!'

Personally, pour out your complaint to God before you pour it out to anyone else. As Calvary, we will be a church that brings the cave to the throne. Pursue Jesus by trusting Him with your raw emotions. Make disciples by training them to talk to God first.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I pour out my complaint to You. Lead me by Your good Spirit on level ground. Teach me to do Your will today.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, train Calvary to bring caves to the throne. Make us a church that talks to You first and to each other second.*

Day 105 | Sunday, August 16, 2026

I Will Extol You, My God and King

Reading: Psalm 144 and Psalm 145 (ESV)

Psalm 144 begins with David's well-known declaration: 'Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.' The Christian is engaged in a real battle. The Lord trains us. He gives us the rock to stand on.

Verse 3 echoes Psalm 8: 'O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him?' We are fragile and short-lived, and yet the eternal God thinks of us. Verses 12-15 paint a picture of national flourishing under God's hand: sons like plants full grown, daughters like corner pillars, granaries full, herds healthy, no breach in the walls. Verse 15 ends, 'Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!'

Psalm 145 is the only Psalm titled 'A Song of Praise' (tehillah, the Hebrew word that gives the whole book its name). It is an acrostic. David walks through the alphabet praising God. 'I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever' (verse 1). Verse 8: 'The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.' Verse 14: 'The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.'

On the Lord's Day, our gathered worship aims at Psalm 145. Personally, build the habit of extolling. Speak God's praise out loud in your home. As Calvary, may our worship today be the kind of song that the watching city wants to join. Carry hope by lifting up someone bowed down.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, I will extol You, my God and King. Train my hands for the battle. Lift my heart in praise. Use me to lift others.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary's gathering with praise that lifts the bowed down. Train our hands for the battle, and crown our church with Your favor.*

Day 106 | Monday, August 17, 2026

Praise the LORD; He Heals the Brokenhearted

Reading: Psalm 146 and Psalm 147 (ESV)

Psalms 146 through 150 are the final Hallelujah chorus of the Psalter. Each one begins and ends with 'Praise the LORD.' These are the Psalms that send us out the door singing.

Psalm 146 calls us to put our trust where it will hold: 'Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish' (verses 3-4). Then verse 5: 'Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God.' The God of Jacob keeps faith forever, executes justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind, lifts up those who are bowed down, watches over the sojourners, upholds the widow and the fatherless. That is who our God is.

Psalm 147 is for the season of growing things. Verse 3: 'He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.' Verse 4: 'He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.' The stars and the brokenhearted are both on His list. He has them all by name.

Personally, take both promises today. Your wounds and your worries are known by name. As Calvary, we will not put our hope in princes. We will put our hope in Jesus, the King who heals broken hearts and names every star. Pursue Jesus by handing Him your wounds. Make disciples by introducing your friends to the One who knows their name.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, You heal the brokenhearted and name every star. You know my wounds, You know my name. I put my trust in You, not in princes.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, hand by hand, heart by heart, heal the broken at Calvary. Free us from misplaced trust in earthly powers. Gather us under Your name.*

Day 107 | Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Praise Him from the Heights and the Depths

Reading: Psalm 148 and Psalm 149 (ESV)

Psalm 148 calls everything in the universe to praise. 'Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!' Then it widens: sea creatures, fire and hail, snow and mist, mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars, beasts and livestock, creeping things and flying birds, kings and peoples, princes and rulers, young men and maidens, old men and children. The Psalm sweeps from angels to grandparents.

Verse 13: 'Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.' This is the goal of redemption: a praising creation under a praiseworthy King.

Psalm 149 calls God's people specifically: 'Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!' Verse 5: 'Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.' Even your bedtime can be a place of joy. Verse 6: 'Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands.' Worship and the Word together.

Personally, lift praise even in the place where you sleep. As Calvary, we are nearing the end of this 108-day journey. Tomorrow is Day 108. Pause today and reflect on how far the LORD has brought you. Praise. Worship is not the warm-up to your day. It is the fuel of your day. Carry hope by being a praising people in a complaining world.

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, every part of my life will praise You today. From my bed in the morning to my pillow at night, I will sing a new song.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, fill Calvary with high praises. Equip us with Your Word like a two-edged sword. Make us a praising, equipped, ready church.*

Day 108 | Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Let Everything That Has Breath

Reading: Psalm 150 (ESV)

We have arrived. Day 108. Psalm 150. The final Psalm in the Bible's hymnbook. The whole Psalter has been pressing toward this last sentence: 'Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!'

Six verses, thirteen 'praises.' The Psalm answers four questions. Where do we praise? In His sanctuary and in the mighty heavens. Why do we praise? For His mighty deeds and His excellent greatness. How do we praise? With trumpet, lute, harp, tambourine, dance, strings, pipe, and clashing cymbals. Who praises? Everything that has breath.

If you are reading this, you have breath. The first command of the day is to use it for praise.

We have walked together through pits, refuges, caves, sanctuaries, sheepfolds, and storms. We have heard David weep and roar. We have heard Asaph teach and lament. We have heard the sons of Korah long for the courts of the LORD. We have heard Moses pray about our days. We have heard Solomon describe the King. And every Psalm has bent toward Jesus, the Son of David, the Suffering Servant, the Risen King.

Today is the day to give the LORD your final loud praise of this season. Personally, sit with what He has done in 108 days. Write it down. Tell someone. As Calvary, may our church family gather this Sunday and lift the loudest, most joyful, most heartfelt praise we have ever offered. We started in Psalm 1 with two trees and two paths. We end in Psalm 150 with everything that has breath praising. The journey was always about Jesus, and He is worthy.

Carry hope. Build intentional relationships. Pursue Jesus. Make disciples. Praise the LORD!

Prayer Prompts

For You: *Father, with the breath You have given me, I praise You. Thank You for these 108 days. Use everything You have grown in me for Your glory.*

For the Calvary Church Family: *Lord, lift Calvary's loudest praise. Carry hope from this summer into autumn. Build, pursue, and make disciples until the day Christ returns. Praise the LORD!*

A Closing Word

Calvary, you did it. One hundred and eight days. One hundred and fifty Psalms. The God who walked Israel through the wilderness has walked us through this summer.

Do not let this be the end. Pick a Psalm a week and keep meditating. Pray with your spouse before bed. Sing with your kids in the car. Open your home to the lost. Build an intentional friendship that did not exist before. The Psalms shaped you. Now pour what they shaped into someone else.

Carry hope. Build intentional relationships. Pursue Jesus. Make disciples.

I love being your pastor. To Christ be the glory.

Pastor Ricky Smith

Calvary Baptist Church | Columbus, GA