

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Many of us read and pray the Psalms daily, and we find it a great blessing to do so. If you are already doing this, I invite you to share with me any plan for reading that you have found helpful. If you are not already doing this, I invite you to begin to engage in this personal form of worship.

I believe it was Dr. Richard A. “Dick” Ray who told me some years ago that in his church officer training classes he told the newly elected deacons and elders that one of the most important things they could do as an officer of the church was to read three Psalms a day. Class after class, year after year, that has a tremendous cumulative effect on the life of a congregation.

Dr. Gerhard Sauter, speaking recently at the Thirteenth Biennial Calvin Colloquium at Erksine Theological Seminary in Due West, South Carolina, said that Augustine could never have written the *Confessions* if he had not prayed the Psalms every day. I had not ever thought of that, but Sauter is right. The entire book is an extended prayer. The first sentence quotes two Psalms, and the allusions continue throughout.

Great are you, O LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and your greatness is unsearchable.

When I took communion to the home of an elderly member of First Presbyterian Church of Toccoa, Georgia, the first pastorate I served, she began the service by reciting from memory several lengthy Psalms. It was wonderful.

An elder at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia, showed me a small, thick, leather bound volume in which his grandfather had hand written his own metrical version of each of the Psalms.

One minister whom I know simply reads and prays two pages of the Psalms each morning. When he reaches the end of the book, he starts over.

Another minister has given me the reading plans I have copied below. Both have selections for mornings and evenings. One includes all the Psalms consecutively in a month. The other places the Psalms in different groupings over the course of seven weeks. Yes, I know that both of these plans come from the prayer books of other denominations, but that does not mean that we cannot put them to good use.

Part of the significance of presenting several ways of reading the Psalms is to say that there is not one way that is right or best for everyone. Another part of the significance of presenting multiple ways of reading the Psalms is to say that it is very important to do it one way or another.

Again, I would appreciate knowing of other ways that you read, pray, and even sing the Psalms, especially if you would be willing for me to share that with others. And if you are willing to start praying the Psalms, let me know that, too.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

Grace and Peace,

Jim

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Reading the Psalms

Day	Morning	Evening
1	1-5	6-8
2	9-11	12-14
3	15-17	18
4	19-21	22-23
5	24-26	27-29
6	30-31	32-34
7	35-36	37
8	38-40	41-43
9	44-46	47-49
10	50-52	53-55
11	56-58	59-61
12	62-64	65-67
13	68	69-70
14	71-72	73-74
15	75-77	78
16	79-81	82-85
17	86-88	89
18	90-92	93-94
19	95-97	98-101
20	102-103	104
21	105	106
22	107	108-109
23	110-113	114-115
24	116-118	119:1-32
25	119:33-72	119:73-104
26	119:105-144	119:145-176
27	120-125	126-131
28	132-135	136-138
29	139-141	142-143
30	144-146	147-150

*The Book of Common Prayer, 1559:
The Elizabethan Prayer Book*

Reading the Psalms

Week 1	Morning	Evening
Sunday	146, 147	111, 112, 113
Monday	1, 2, 3	4, 7
Tuesday	5, 6	10, 11
Wednesday	119:1-24	12, 13, 14
Thursday	18:1-20	18:21-50
Friday	16, 17	22
Saturday	20, 21	110, 116, 117

Week 2	Morning	Evening
Sunday	148, 149, 150	114, 115
Monday	25	9, 15
Tuesday	26, 28	36, 39
Wednesday	38	119:25-48
Thursday	37:1-18	37:19-42
Friday	31	35
Saturday	30, 32	42, 43

Week 3	Morning	Evening
Sunday	63, 98	103
Monday	41, 52	44
Tuesday	45	47, 48
Wednesday	119:49-72	49, 53
Thursday	50	59, 60
Friday	40, 54	51
Saturday	55	138, 139

Week 4	Morning	Evening
Sunday	24, 29	8, 84
Monday	56, 57, 58	64, 65
Tuesday	61, 62	68
Wednesday	72	119:73-96
Thursday	70, 71	74
Friday	69	73
Saturday	75, 76	23, 27

Week 5	Morning	Evening
Sunday	93, 96	34
Monday	80	77, 79

Tuesday	78:1-39	78:40-72
Wednesday	119:97-120	81, 82
Thursday	83	85, 86
Friday	88	91, 92
Saturday	87, 90	136

Week 6	Morning	Evening
Sunday	66, 67	19, 46
Monday	89:1-18	89:19-52
Tuesday	97, 99, 100	94, 95
Wednesday	101, 109	119:121-144
Thursday	105:1-22	105:23-45
Friday	102	107:1-32
Saturday	107:33-43, 108	33

Week 7	Morning	Evening
Sunday	118	145
Monday	106:1-18	106:19-48
Tuesday	120, 121, 122, 123	124, 125, 126, 127
Wednesday	119:145-176	128, 129, 130
Thursday	131, 132, 133	134, 135
Friday	140, 142	141, 143
Saturday	137, 144	104