

There's a Psalm for This

I'm always a little shocked at how angry the psalmists will get at their "enemies". At this point it really shouldn't be a surprise. I've seen this over and over again in many Psalms. I've talked about it here and in Sunday School and in sermons. But it's still almost ... well, I guess inappropriate is the right word. We're not *supposed* to ask for these things, right? But we see it so often in the Psalms, maybe it is OK? Or at least, it's OK if we know what's actually happening.

Psalm 149 (CEB)

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful!
Let Israel celebrate its maker; let Zion's children rejoice in their king!
Let them praise God's name with dance;
 let them sing God's praise with the drum and lyre!
Because the Lord is pleased with his people,
 God will beautify the poor with saving help.

Let the faithful celebrate with glory; let them shout for joy on their beds.
Let the high praises of God be in their mouths
 and a double-edged sword in their hands,
 to get revenge against the nations and punishment on the peoples,
 binding their rulers in chains and their officials in iron shackles,
 achieving the justice written against them.
That will be an honor for all God's faithful people.

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 149 is a pretty tame example of asking for inappropriate-seeming things to happen to our enemies, but it's still in there. But it isn't really about what happens to them other folk; it's not really about *them*. It seems to be about us and about God. I think these psalms where the psalmist asks for revenge or bad things to happen to those who oppose them is meant to show us that God wants us to call on God for these things, because when we do something interesting usually happens.

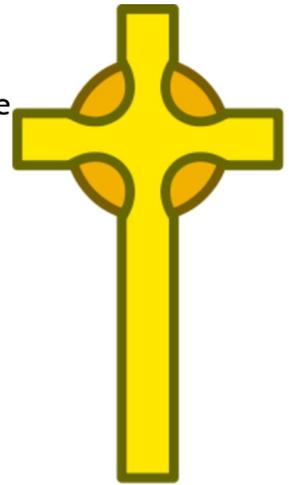
Once the Psalmist does call on God for revenge, their attitude usually changes. They're less focused on the destruction of their enemies and more focused on God and God's glory. It isn't about their enemy, their vengeance, or the desire for their enemies' suffering – it's about God being God and being honored as God.

It's a nice reminder for us when we are frustrated at things happening, when we feel hurt by others, and any number of situations we find ourselves in that, when we take those things to God in prayer – even if we say inappropriate things while doing it – that God will change our hearts and remind us of who God is in the midst of our struggles and turmoil, and remind us that God gets the glory and honor, and if necessary, even the vengeance.

Pastor Mike Galica

Holy Cross Announcements

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! We are now in the **season of Easter**, in which we celebrate the most important event in history: the day on which our Lord Jesus Christ showed his defeat of sin, death, and the devil by rising from the grave. Rejoice with us in the resurrection of our Lord! Our paraments are white during this season to reflect our celebration.



The **Bear River Health Department** is administering COVID-19 vaccinations to all those over 16! For more information and to check availability, visit <https://brhd.org/covid-19-vaccine-information/>

Our state and local health departments' COVID-19 Transmission Level for our county is "Medium". This means that we will be now offering in-person worship again! Please review the Holy Cross COVID-19 plan on our website to review the requests and requirements for meeting together. Most importantly, wear a mask and please remember that available space is limited due to social distancing! Please let Pastor Mike know if you are planning to attend in-person.

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to distribute! Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 to find out if you are eligible.

If you want to give an offering to the church but are either unable to or don't feel comfortable with attending in person, you can mail it to PO Box 732, Brigham City UT, 84302. The post office box gets checked regularly and your giving will be secure.

Sunday School for children and adults is recessed.

Holy Cross Quilters will continue refraining from meeting.

This Week's Readings:

5th Sunday of Easter – *Council at Jerusalem* – Acts 15:1-18; Luke 2:25-35

Next Week's Readings:

6th Sunday of Easter – *Living by Faith* – Galatians 1:13-17, 2:11-21; Luke 18:9-17

Prayer List

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." — Phil 4:6

Keep the following in your prayers

Matt Long, Andrea's brother, for healing and a successful surgery.

Matt, Deborah Kay's cousin, for healing.

Tyson, Michelle's dad's friend's son, for mental health.

Sharon, for a swift recovery after surgery.

Brian Hohn, friend of Bob Kosbab, with esophageal cancer.

Our vulnerable populations, especially those with underlying health conditions, the homeless, and those lacking access to proper medical care in this time.

Nora Greer, for healing.

Trudee Klein, friend of Deborah Kay, for healing from cancer.

Tom & Jeanette Croft, friend of Kosbabs, for healing.

Abby Rasmussen and family, friends of Kosbabs, as she struggles with cystic fibrosis.

John Buist, our custodian, for continued health problems.

Lynne, Robert Quick's wife, with health issues.

Aleasa, Robert Quick's daughter, with health issues.

Mark Sparkman, Quick's son-in-law, recurring health problems.

Gloria Perry, for healing from health problems.

Box Elder County Jail Ministry, that the inmates may respond to the Gospel.

Deborah Kay Hansen, prayers for healing from recurring health problems.

Give thanks to God

Bryce and Emily Herman and newborn daughter, nephew & family of the Kosbabs, have recovered well.

Claudia Long, Andrea's mom, is doing much better but still needs prayer for strength and health.

Tripp, newborn son of Lexa and Kyler, is off oxygen and doing much better.

Keep those in prayer who are in harm's way

Medical professionals and all who are continuing to work during this pandemic.

Braxton Jeppsen, serving in the US Navy.

Let Pastor Mike know if there are any petitions you wish to add to our Prayer List. If you added someone to the prayer list, please update us on how they are doing! We love to celebrate praises as well as petitions. Out of concern for people's privacy, we no longer speak people's names in the worship service, but we continue to pray for all their needs and concerns.