

There's a Psalm for This

This week, specifically this Saturday, is the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and the attempted attack on Washington DC. Like many of us, I have vivid memories of that day – three of them in particular. The first is waking up to my friend George messaging me on AOL Instant Messenger, telling me to turn on the TV, and being glued to one TV or another the rest of the day, desperate for news. The second memory is waiting, along with so many others in the same situation, to hear news of my uncle who lives in New York and praying he would be ok. (He was). The third memory, well, if you pardon the “clickbait”, I’ll share that after the Psalm.

Psalm 91 (CEB)

Living in the Most High’s shelter, camping in the Almighty’s shade,
I say to the Lord, “You are my refuge, my stronghold! You are my God—the one I trust!”

God will save you from the hunter’s trap and from deadly sickness.
God will protect you with his pinions; you’ll find refuge under his wings.

His faithfulness is a protective shield.

Don’t be afraid of terrors at night, arrows that fly in daylight,
or sickness that prowls in the dark, destruction that ravages at noontime.
Even if one thousand people fall dead next to you, ten thousand right beside you—
it won’t happen to you.

Just look with your eyes, and you will see the wicked punished.
Because you’ve made the Lord my refuge, the Most High, your place of residence—
no evil will happen to you; no disease will come close to your tent.
Because he will order his messengers to help you, to protect you wherever you go.
They will carry you with their own hands so you don’t bruise your foot on a stone.
You’ll march on top of lions and vipers; you’ll trample young lions and serpents underfoot.

God says, “Because you are devoted to me, I’ll rescue you.

I’ll protect you because you know my name.

Whenever you cry out to me, I’ll answer. I’ll be with you in troubling times.

I’ll save you and glorify you. I’ll fill you full with old age. I’ll show you my salvation.”

My third memory is also the most vivid. It’s from later in the day, outside the college cafeteria, seeing my friend Mohammad holding a bloody cloth, because someone threw a brick at him, hitting him in the head. I remember his pain, his physical pain from the wound, yes; but more his spiritual pain of taking blame for actions he also despised, because he looked and prayed like the ones who “did it”, and someone else’s pain and anger lashed out at him.

It is our habit as humans to want to blame someone when something terrible happens. But far too often, we blame the wrong person, and end up causing more harm because of the pain we feel. In Psalm 91, we’re reminded that, when we’re hurt, we’re supposed to run to God – and take shelter in God’s shade. Like a child runs to a parent when they’re hurt, we run to God, and let God take care of us – even punishing those who hurt us if that’s what’s needed. The punishment isn’t our job; vengeance isn’t our job. Instead, we run to God, cry out to God, and trust in the one who saves us.

Pastor Mike Galica

Holy Cross Announcements

This Sunday is **Holy Cross Sunday**, our church's name day. This feast day remembers the arrival of pieces of the "true cross" to Constantinople. Our paraments are red to remind us of Jesus' work on the cross.



The **Bear River Health Department** is administering COVID-19 vaccinations to all those over 12! For more information and to check availability, visit <https://brhd.org/covid-19-vaccine-information/>

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 is recessed.

Adult Sunday School will resume online September 19.

Holy Cross Quilters will continue refraining from meeting.

This Week's Readings:

Holy Cross Sunday – *Creation by the Word* – Genesis 1:1-2:4a; John 1:1-5

Next Week's Readings:

17th Sunday after Pentecost – *Binding of Isaac* – Genesis 21:1-3,22:1-14; John 1:29-34

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

Shirley, Pastor Mike's great-aunt, with heart and lung issues.

Holly, Bob Kosbab's cousin's daughter, hospitalized with COVID-19.

Bob Quick, for healing

Ann, Jeff Hoedt's daughter, **and her baby due in October**. Ann has gestational diabetes.

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.

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

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.

Gloria Perry, for healing from health problems.

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

Give thanks to God

Michelle Galica, recovering from surgery.

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

Keep those in prayer who are in harm's way

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

Braxton Jeppesen, 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.