

## There's a Psalm for This

There are a few Psalms that just make me think “how dare you talk to God like that!?” Psalm 44 is one of those psalms. It starts out fine, with a litany recalling God's deeds, but then it takes a turn. It blames all their misfortune on God's action – God abandoned them; God handed them over; it's all God's fault!

### **Psalm 44:1-2,4-5,8-14,17-26 (CEB)**

*For the music leader. A maskil of the Korahites.*

We have heard it, God, with our own ears; our ancestors told us about it:  
about the deeds you did in their days, in days long past.

You, by your own hand, removed all the nations, but you planted our ancestors.

You crushed all the peoples, but you set our ancestors free.

It's you, God! You who are my king, the one who orders salvation for Jacob.

We've pushed our foes away by your help; we've trampled our enemies by your name.

So we glory in God at all times and give thanks to your name forever. *Selah*

But now you've rejected and humiliated us. You no longer accompany our armies.

You make us retreat from the enemy; our adversaries plunder us.

You've handed us over like sheep for butchering; you've scattered us among the nations.

You've sold your people for nothing, not even bothering to set a decent price.

You've made us a joke to all our neighbors;

we're mocked and ridiculed by everyone around us.

You've made us a bad joke to the nations, something to be laughed at by all peoples.

All this has come upon us, but we haven't forgotten you or broken your covenant.

Our hearts haven't turned away, neither have our steps strayed from your way.

But you've crushed us in the place where jackals live, covering us with deepest darkness.

If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to some strange deity,  
wouldn't God have discovered it? After all, God knows every secret of the heart.

No, God, it's because of you that we are getting killed every day—

it's because of you that we are considered sheep ready for slaughter.

Wake up! Why are you sleeping, Lord? Get up! Don't reject us forever!

Why are you hiding your face, forgetting our suffering and oppression?

Look: we're going down to the dust; our stomachs are flat on the ground!

Stand up! Help us! Save us for the sake of your faithful love.

That's not how I would think to pray. Blaming God? That just doesn't feel right. But I think psalms like these give us permission to be angry in God's direction, because God can take it! It's better for us to be upset at God than to take it out on someone who doesn't deserve it. It's better to blame God for tragedies than to blame people we don't like. And being angry at God has a fortunate side-effect: it takes our focus off the thing that happened and turns us back to God. If being angry at God reminds us that God exists in a moment when we may have forgotten, that's not so bad a thing; because then God's work of healing from the tragedy can begin.

Pastor Mike Galica

## Holy Cross Announcements

We're in the **Season after Pentecost**, a time in the church year of studying the Scriptures in order to learn to follow Jesus more closely. Our paraments are green to symbolize growing more Christ-like each day.

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/>

Pastor Mike and Michelle's **Farewell Reception** will be on November 14 from noon to 2 PM. More details to come soon! (Pastor Mike's last Sunday is November 21.)

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to distribute! Visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://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** videos are posted to the church's YouTube page on Sunday mornings.

**Holy Cross Quilters** will start meeting again on October 20 at 9:30 AM.

### **This Week's Readings:**

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – *God Calls Samuel* – 1 Samuel 3:1-21; John 20:19-23

### **Next Week's Readings:**

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – *God Calls David* – 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14; John 7:14-24



## 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**

**Brenda**, Pastor Mike's cousin, with pancreatic cancer.

**Alan**, Pastor Mike's cousin, having a triple bypass.

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

**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**

**Holly**, Bob Kosbab's cousin's daughter, is home from the hospital!

**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 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.*