

The Psalms

A Study of the Eucharistic Psalms
in the period after Pentecost



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INTRODUCTION

The Psalms are known as the hymn book of Jesus. Every Sabbath Jews around the world recite the psalms as part of their worship. Every Sunday in morning or evening prayer or during the Eucharist, Christians also recite them as part of their worship. They are often known as the Psalms of David largely because David was traditionally known as a musical person. Sometimes we are confused because some of the things written about in the Psalms that postdated King David by a couple of hundred years.

By the time of Jesus and the early Church the use of the Psalms was well fixed into liturgy. Because the early Church was originally a Jewish sect the Old Testament was referred to as the Scriptures that were read Sunday by Sunday (Acts 2:42)



Psalms as prayers

In praying most of us have been taught that we follow the ACTS format for our prayers.

A -- 'Adoration' – it is the time to adore the Father with all the love we can bring to Him and to thank him for our creation, for our being in the creation, and for the love and care he shows for us as part of that creation.

C -- 'Confession' it is time for us to recognize, in the face of the loving Father, our failures, shortcomings and our willful arrogance and deceit. This psalm does it.

T __ 'Thanksgivings.' One of the marks of the Christian is a sense of never-ending thanksgiving. This we think of all the good things, good and wonderful people we meet, of the material goods we have to share and the joy we have in sharing and giving to others

S -- 'Supplication' this is where some of us think is what takes most of our time in praying but it is where we bring to the Father our needs and wants for others, our town, and our land.



PSALM 8

O Lord our Governor:
how glorious is your name in all the earth!

Your majesty above the heavens is yet
recounted:

by the mouths of babes and sucklings.

You have founded a strong defence
against your adversaries:
to quell the enemy and the avenger.



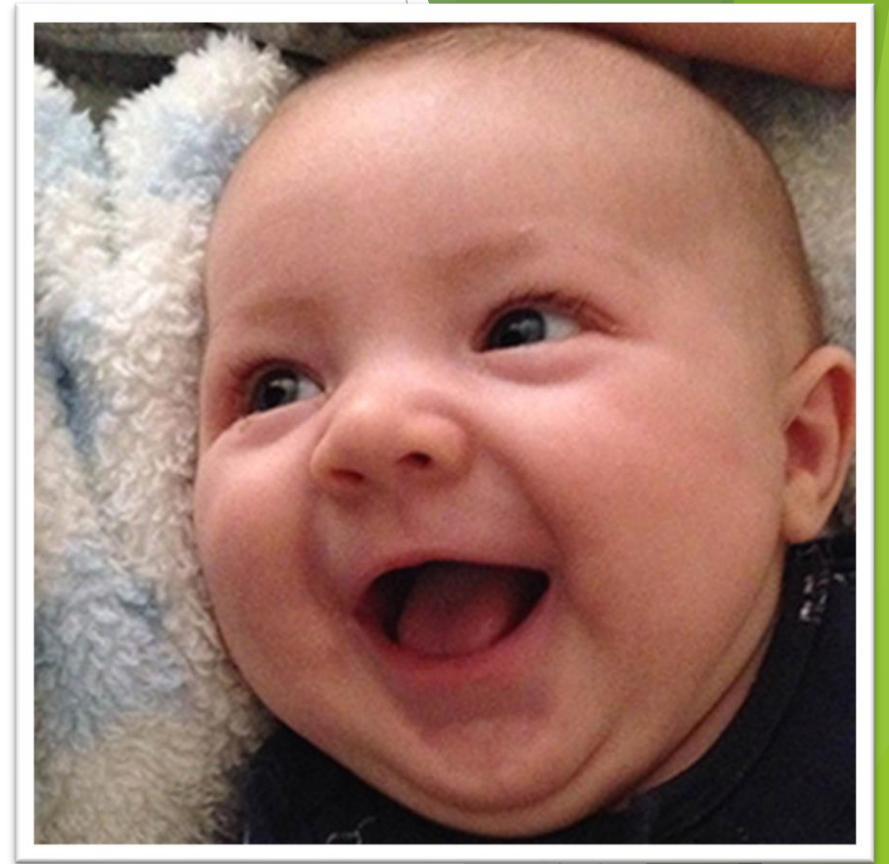
Children laugh most often when they are secure!

We are reminded of our trust in our Father – and that keeps us in a state of blessedness.

Laughter is our way of expressing our trust in the Father.

We rejoice that He has made us and we do not have to build defences or bulwarks...

They have been built by God the Father!



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When I consider your heavens the work of your fingers:
the moon and the stars which you have set in order,

What is man that you should be mindful of him:
or the son of man that you should care for him?

Yet you have made him little less than a god:
and have crowned him with glory and honour.



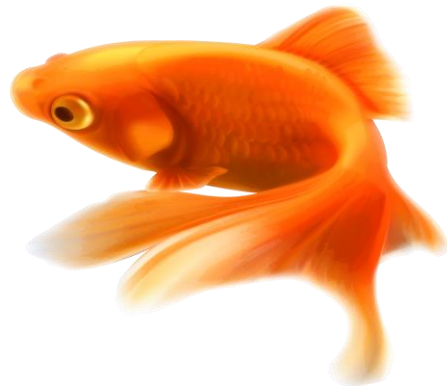
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You have made him the master of your handiwork:
and have put all things in subjection beneath his feet,

All sheep and oxen:
and all the creatures of the field,

The birds of the air and the fish of the sea:
and everything that moves, in the pathways of the great waters.

O Lord our Governor:
how glorious is your name in all the earth!



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