

## Praying Psalm 111

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(This week's readings from Sunday to Saturday: Psalm 111–117)

### Psalm 111 (ESV)

- 1 Praise the Lord!  
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.
- 4 He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
- 5 He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy;
- 8 they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!
- 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever!

### Adoration

The joyful exclamations of Psalm 111 come from a psalmist who was captivated with God's character and his work. Four times in this psalm we hear God referred to as "the LORD" or Yahweh, which is the name God gave to himself in Exodus 3, when speaking with Moses at the burning bush. There are more than 800 names for God in Scripture, each of them seeking to describe his character in some form or fashion. In the name "Yahweh," God reveals Himself to be the one true God, the eternal "I AM." In your own words, praise God for his very name. As Psalm 111 reminds us in verse 9, the name of the Lord is holy and awesome!

[Pray for 25 seconds.]

Just as God's names reveal who he is, so do his works. What are these works? Certainly, in one sense, everything the Lord has done can be referred to as his works, beginning with creation and moving through the stories that unfold his redemptive love and purposes throughout history. Those who belong to the Lord have seen his works in their own lives and the lives of other believers, too. Worship God out loud with the words of Psalm 111, verses 3, 4, and 7. Declare that God's works are faithful, just, and full of splendor, majesty, and wonder!

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

This psalm highlights God's works of grace, provision, generosity, and power, but Psalm 111 seems to crescendo to verse 9, where God's greatest work of splendor, majesty, wonder, faithfulness, and justice is shown: "He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever." Take a minute to praise God for sending his Son Jesus to rescue us from our sin and its eternal consequences. Praise him for arranging all of history to bring us redemption that lasts forever!

[Pray for 20 seconds]

LORD, there is none like you and no other god besides you! You are great and mighty to be praised and are faithful in all your ways. You spoke the universe into existence with your words and continue to uphold and sustain everything by the power of your Word.<sup>1</sup> Beginning in the garden of Eden and proceeding through the Old Testament, you whispered your gracious plan to redeem your people from sin and its effects. You showed your sovereignty over history by preparing the way to send your own Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish salvation and redemption once and for all!! Truly, your works are full of splendor and majesty and your righteousness endures forever.

## Confession

As described in Psalm 111, God's holiness, righteousness, and majesty make us realize that we are not holy, righteous, or majestic. Our thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions reveal that we've broken each of God's trustworthy precepts. Take a moment to ask the Lord to bring to light any areas of sin that you need to confess to him, knowing that he is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.<sup>2</sup>

[Pray for 25 seconds.]

Lord, we feel our lack, our need, and our sinfulness in light of your goodness, holiness, and righteousness. We easily forget your character and your ways. We don't properly stand in awe of you. We don't trust your Word or obey your precepts, but idolize ourselves and those around

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<sup>1</sup> See Genesis 1 and Heb 1:3.

<sup>2</sup> 1 John 1:9.

us. We simply do what we please. Please forgive our sin! Give us grace to turn from it and walk again in your light because of the redemption you've provided for us in Jesus Christ.

## Thanksgiving

The psalmist is clearly overwhelmed by the glories and grace of all that God has done in the past, the joy of his character in the present, and the hope and security of what he will accomplish in the years to come and eternity beyond. How will you give thanks to the Lord today with your whole heart and in the company of other believers? Start by thanking the Lord in your own words for his provision in the past.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Now, thank God that his mercies are “new” and fresh for us again today, just as surely as the sun rises to give us a new day!<sup>3</sup>

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Now express your gratitude to God for his commitment to finish the good work he's begun in you and in all who trust in him.<sup>4</sup> Thank him for the goodness and mercy that will follow you all the days of your life and bring you to dwell with him forever.<sup>5</sup>

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

LORD, we thank you with our whole heart! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, Father, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.<sup>6</sup> Thank you for the beauty of your sovereign plan over all creation and over all history. Thank you for your grace in causing us to remember your wondrous works and see the mercy you've shown to us. Thank you for giving us an inheritance in Christ Jesus that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for all who trust in you.<sup>7</sup> Thank you for your commands, for they are trustworthy and eternal and for our good. Thank you for revealing yourself to us that we might know you and draw near to you and find mercy and grace in our time of need.<sup>8</sup>

## Supplication

Psalm 111 verse 10 proclaims, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.” And verse 7 mentions that “all his precepts are trustworthy.” In your own words, ask God to give you a heart that wants to obey his commands!

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<sup>3</sup> Lam 3:22–23.

<sup>4</sup> Phil 1:6.

<sup>5</sup> Ps 23:6; cf. 1 Cor 2:9 and Heb 7:25.

<sup>6</sup> Jas 1:7.

<sup>7</sup> 1 Pet 1:4.

<sup>8</sup> Jas 4:8, Heb 4:14–16.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Ask God for help to trust his Word, that you would have eyes to see him and ears to hear his voice, as the Lord reveals his character and deeds through his Word.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

In light of the faithful, just, and righteous deeds of the Lord and in light of his boundless compassion and endless grace, what do you need him to do for you today? What would the Lord have you ask of him?

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

Father, you have commanded us to love you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.<sup>9</sup> By your grace and through the power of your Holy Spirit, would you enable us to obey what you command? Please continue giving us grace to remember who you are and what you've done for us as we journey through this day. Help us to continue meditating on your great salvation and to walk in light of the fact that you've made us your sons and daughters; we are no longer slaves to sin!<sup>10</sup> Unite our hearts to fear your name, LORD.<sup>11</sup> Give us wisdom in decisions that we face today, to know the way in which you would have us to walk.<sup>12</sup> Finally, Lord, you've told us to ask you to make the nations our heritage ... so we ask it, Lord! Please grant even this day that people in our neighborhoods and in all places around the world would hear about and place their faith in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and King.

## Benediction

As the old hymn says,

"When we walk with the Lord / in the light of His Word, / what a glory He sheds on our way ...  
When we do His good will, / He abides with us still, / and with all who will trust and obey."<sup>13</sup>

May we walk together today in the light of the LORD's great character, reminded of his wondrous works on our behalf, and trusting in his eternal goodness to us, as guaranteed by Christ's redemption. "Praise the Lord! ... His praise endures forever!"<sup>14</sup>

AMEN.

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<sup>9</sup> Deut 6:5 and Matt 22:37.

<sup>10</sup> 2 Cor 6:18, Rom 6:17–18.

<sup>11</sup> Ps 86:11.

<sup>12</sup> See Isa 30:21 and Ps 25:8–10, 12.

<sup>13</sup> J. H. Sammis and D. B. Towner, "When We Walk with the Lord (Trust and Obey)," Public Domain.

<sup>14</sup> Ps 111:1, 10.

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Produced by Chris Green, Luke Brown, and Jonathan Welch

Engineered by Luke Brown and Branden Williams

Written by Alicia Clark

Narrated by Jonathan Welch

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