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Companion for the Journey

Renewed in Mercy

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

The psalms often provide us with an excellent map for planning worship. In a world where we struggle to acknowledge our emotions as individuals, much less as a community, the psalms are master classes in how to faithfully express our emotions and experiences to God as a gathered body.

REFERENCES

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

COLORS

Purple

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship God!

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Come, let us worship our Shepherd!

We are the sheep of God's pasture, and we follow where God leads us.

Come, let us open our hearts!

We receive God's love poured into our hearts through the Spirit.

Come, let us worship God, the rock of our salvation!

Let us worship God, whose mercy guides and sustains us on the path of new life!

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We thank you, O God, that you have given us an enduring hope—one which cannot disappoint us or mislead us. We thank you, that through our faith in you and in your Son Jesus Christ, you enter into every believing heart and make us new...

Lord, hear our prayer.....

We pray today, O God, that those believers who are asleep may awake and know that salvation is nearer now than when they first believed. Help them, and us, to lay aside the works of sin and to put on the armor of salvation that you bestow upon those who actively seek your grace. Grant that their faith and ours may be fully alive....

Lord, hear our prayer.....

We ask today, O God, for those who have lost hope and for those who have never had it. Grant to us and to those we lift before you in our hearts a new and abiding vision of what you have done, and what you are doing, and what you will do, to save and redeem your people and indeed creation itself. Grant, O God, that all might see and believe and discover their purpose and the purpose of all that is and all that is yet to be....

Lord, hear our prayer.....

We lift before you, O God, those persons and those places named in our sharing time (bidding prayer)....

Lord, hear our prayer.....

We ask all this of you, O God, knowing that you are our hope and our salvation, a very present help in times of trouble, and the One whose purpose is to grant new and abundant life to us and our world. Praise be to your name. Amen.

Adapted from Rev. Richard J. Fairchild and posted on Kir-shalom. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/10/prayers-of-people-enduring-hope.html>.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, from the beginning of time, you have called your children into communion with you. Yet we confess that like all the rest, we have turned to our own way and refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you and of recognizing your reign among us, through Jesus Christ, bringer of your good news. Amen.

Written by Ruth C. Duck, Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), 60.

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BENEDICTION

Go now in the blessing of God's mercy that companions us all on the journey, opening our hearts to receive and share God's steadfast love until all creation resonates with the joy of new life. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

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