

B2: Psalms We Love to Sing // Psalm 150: A Conference Experience

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February 6, 2026

Introduction

Why do we sing Psalms?

Psalm Topics

1. Praise

The Psalms teach us to praise by lifting our eyes to God's character and mighty works, expanding our vision like a telescope to behold his goodness and beauty. They deepen our understanding of God by rehearsing his concrete actions—creating the world, sustaining his people, redeeming through his steadfast love, and renewing life by his Spirit. This rich testimony guards us from viewing God as distant or vague. Instead, the Psalms train our hearts to respond in awe and gratitude, giving voice to our wonder and love in simple, wholehearted cries: “Wow!” “Thank you!” “I love you!”

“Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord),” Matt Boswell, Matt Papa

Verse 1

You made the starry hosts
You traced the mountain peaks
You paint the evening skies with wonders
The earth it is your throne
From desert to the sea
All nature testifies your splendor

Chorus 1

Praise the Lord; praise the Lord
Sing his greatness all creation
Praise the Lord; raise your voice
You heights and all you depths
From furthest east to west
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord

Verse 2

You reached into the dust
In love your Spirit breathed
You formed us in your very likeness
To know your wondrous works
To tell your mighty deeds
To join the everlasting chorus

Verse 3

Let symphonies resound
Let drums and choirs ring out
All heaven hear the sound of worship
Let every nation bring
Its honors to the King
A roar of harmonies eternal

Chorus 2

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Sing his greatness all creation
Praise the Lord, raise your voice
You heights and all you depths
From furthest east to west
You distant burning stars
All creatures near and far
From sky to sea to shore
Sing out forevermore
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord

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2. Creation

The Psalms proclaim God as the Maker of heaven and earth, celebrating creation as the tapestry of his wisdom, power, and beauty. They show a world upheld by God's faithful care and call humanity, made in his image, to rejoice in and tend this handiwork. In worship, the Psalms teach us to marvel at creation's abundance, to lament its wounds, and to join its unceasing praise. They lead us to pray for fruitful seasons, for justice across the land, and for faithful stewardship, so that all creation may flourish under the goodness of the God who formed and loves it.

"Let the Earth Be Glad (Psalm 96)," Wendell Kimbrough

Verse 1

Let the earth be glad, let the stars rejoice
Let the forest sing, let the ocean roar
Come and join their song, come and lift your voice
The Lord our God is King

Verse 2

People of the earth lay your glory down
Come to him alone who can wear the crown
Come and find your place, come and learn to sing
The Lord our God is King

Chorus

Glory, glory, glory to the King
Glory, glory, all creation sings

Verse 3

Every nation sing, every language shout
Bring your gifts with joy to the Savior's house
No more us and them, no one gets left out
The Lord our God is King

Verse 4

All the earth at rest, every creature blessed
For he comes with justice and righteousness
In the darkness light, every wrong made right
The Lord our God is King

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3. Life

The Psalms freely ask God for life, health, peace, and the good things of earth—not as expressions of greed or self-indulgence, but as signs of God's gracious fellowship with his people. Their prayers assume that every genuine blessing flows from God's hand and is meant to draw us deeper into relationship with him. When the psalmists plead for deliverance, restoration, or daily provision, they are reaching toward the God who delights to sustain his creation. Their requests become acts of trust, reminders that life with God is abundant life, and that every earthly gift points to the greater gift of God's presence.

"From Everlasting (Psalm 90)," Lacy Hudson, Lisa Clow

Verse 1

O God before the mountains were brought forth
Or days of spring and summer filled the earth
From everlasting, you are God

Verse 2

We dwell beneath the stars in ancient skies
A thousand years are nothing in your sight
From everlasting, you are God

Chorus

And all our days are held within your hands
Your perfect love and favor have no end
We rest within the wisdom of your plan
Everlasting (God)

Verse 3

O God, when joy and tragedy collide
And loss reminds us life is but a sigh
From everlasting, you are God

Verse 4

O God of light our ways are known to you
But by your grace, you're making all things new
So satisfy us in our numbered days
Establish every effort while we wait
From everlasting, you are God

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4. Listening

The Psalms invite us to listen. They call us to tune our hearts to God’s voice—spoken by the Spirit, remembered in Israel’s story, and sung in the worship of God’s people. In listening, we find discernment, conviction, encouragement, and obedience. At its heart, this listening is communion with the One who speaks. Through the Psalms, we listen to Jesus, the Word made flesh; to God’s law, a lamp to our feet; to creation’s chorus revealing his beauty and power; and to the witness of God’s people in lament and praise.

“Be Still (Psalm 46),” Wendell Kimbrough

Chorus

Be still
Slow down
Breathe in
Breathe out
And know
That I
Am God

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5. Fear

Scripture teaches that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. When the saints met the Lord, they trembled, yet his loving response was always, “Fear not.” Wisdom is orienting our lives toward this holy fear while resting in his peace. Though we rightly stand in awe and reverence, many of our fears do not come from God—fears of enemies, failure, loss, loneliness, or a loss of purpose. We fear for ourselves and for others. The Psalms invite us to bring these fears before the Lord and hear again his comforting words: “Fear not.”

“Psalm 27 (The Lord Is My Light),” Jordan Kauflin, Laura Story, Matthew Merker

Verse 1

The Lord is my light and my salvation
Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear
The Lord is the stronghold of my life
Of whom shall I be afraid

Chorus

Lord, you are my shelter
God of my salvation, I am not forsaken
Lord, my shield and protector
Waiting on your promise
I will see your goodness, O Lord

Verse 2

When troubles arise, no foe can harm me
You are my peace, you are my peace
You lift me above the raging storm
You conquer my enemies

Verse 3

One thing I have asked: to see your beauty
This I will seek, this I will seek
To dwell in your house, to walk in your ways
Your presence is all I need

Bridge

I wait, wait for the Lord
In faith trusting your word
I wait, wait for the Lord
In faith trusting your word

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6. Doubt

The Psalms remind us that doubt is not a failure of faith but an honest part of it. In Psalm 73, Asaph openly wrestles with injustice and confusion, admitting that the prosperity of the wicked nearly derailed his faith. Yet everything shifts when he enters God's presence. His doubts become prayer, and clarity begins to form. The Psalms invite us to bring our questions—about suffering, justice, or God's ways—directly to him. When we voice our doubts before the Lord, they can be transformed into deeper trust and renewed worship.

"Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call (Psalm 42)," Matt Boswell, Matt Papa

Verse 1

Lord, from sorrows deep I call
When my hope is shaken
Torn and ruined from the fall
Hear my desperation
For so long I've pled and prayed
God, come to my rescue
Even so the thorn remains
Still my heart will praise you

Verse 2

Storms within my troubled soul
Questions without answers
On my faith these billows roll
God, be now my shelter
Why are you cast down my soul
Hope in him who saves you
When the fires have all grown cold
Cause this heart to praise you

Verse 3

Should my life be torn from me
Every worldly pleasure
When all I possess is grief
God, be then my treasure
Be my vision in the night
Be my hope and refuge
'Til my faith is turned to sight
Lord, my heart will praise you

Chorus

Oh my soul, put your hope in God
My help, my rock I will praise him
Sing, oh sing through the raging storm
You're still my God, my salvation

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7. Suffering

Suffering comes to us all—through pressure, broken relationships, illness, loss, or the ache of loneliness. In Psalm 13, David voices what many feel: “How long, Lord?” He is honest about pain and God’s seeming silence, yet he doesn’t end there. In the midst of suffering, he chooses to remember God’s steadfast love: “But I trust in your unfailing love.” David shows that lament and trust can coexist. The Psalms invite us to bring our raw grief to God, reminding us that honest prayer can open the way to deeper dependence on his love and faithfulness.

“I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130),” Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend

Verse 1

Out of the depths I cry to you
In darkest places I will call
Incline your ear to me anew
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord

Verse 2

Were you to count my sinful ways
How could I come before your throne?
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze
I stand redeemed by grace alone

Chorus 1

I will wait for you; I will wait for you
On your word I will rely
I will wait for you, surely wait for you
Till my soul is satisfied

Verse 3

So put your hope in God alone
Take courage in his power to save
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave

Verse 4

His steadfast love has made a way
And God himself has paid the price
That all who trust in him today
Find healing in his sacrifice

Chorus 2

I will wait for you; I will wait for you
Through the storm and through the night
I will wait for you, surely wait for you
For your love is my delight

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8. Salvation

In the Psalms, salvation describes God’s comprehensive work of making life whole. It includes deliverance from evil and danger, healing from physical and emotional brokenness, and restoration to peace and well-being. Salvation is not only escape from trouble but the experience of God’s faithful presence—our refuge, strength, and healer. The Psalms portray salvation as God setting things right: protecting his people, renewing their health, restoring joy, and drawing them into his peace. Ultimately, salvation means wholeness, life, and hope found in God alone.

“God Is Faithful (Psalm 114),” Bob Kauflin, Lacy Hudson

Verse 1

God brought out his people
with a strong and mighty hand
Took them out of slavery
to behold the promised land
Mountains fled before them
And the seas turned back and ran
And they saw that he was good.

Chorus 1

God is faithful to his promise
He is with us, he is with us.
God is faithful, God is faithful to his own

Verse 2

God has come to free us
from the bondage of our sin.
Tasting of his kindness,
we cannot go back again.
He leads us through the desert
to the rivers of his grace,
working all things for our good.

Verse 3

We have known your mercy
and your loves as in the past
If the days be few or many,
you will guide us to the last.
You have said it; we believe it,
every promise holding fast,
for we know that you are good.

Chorus 2

God is faithful to his promise
He is with us, he is with us.
God is faithful, God is faithful to his own
You are faithful to your promise
You are with us, you are with us
You are faithful, you are faithful to your own

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9. Storytelling

The Psalms tell stories. They rehearse for God's people the identity -shaping power of his past actions. They recall in concrete details God's love, faithfulness, provision, rescue, and presence in suffering. They let us taste what it means that God is a deliverer and remind us that salvation from something as devastating as sin often unfolds as a long, ongoing story. Storytelling is central to our covenant relationship with God. By savoring the past, we discover meaning in the present and develop hope for the future.

"Oh Give Thanks (Psalm 107)," Wendell Kimbrough

Verse 1

We were wand'ring in the desert
With our souls so starved and weak
We were hungry for a homeland
We did not know how to seek
But we lifted up our voices
To the only one who hears
And the God of mercy came and brought us near

Verse 2

We were locked out of the garden
And our backs bend down with pain
In the shadow of death's darkness
We were slaves to sin and blame
Then we cried out in our labor
To the only one who hears
And the God of mercy wiped away our tears

Chorus

Oh give thanks to the Lord
For his love endures forever
We were wandering and lost
And our Father brought us home
To a safe dwelling place
To a feast of joy and laughter
Oh give thanks to the Lord for he is good

Verse 3

We were fools in our rebellion
With our hunger strike of pride
We were sick and growing closer
To the death we should have died
Then he heard of our condition
And he called us by our names
And the God of glory took away our shame

Verse 4

We were far out on the ocean
Making wealth and chasing dreams
But the waves of great destruction
Brought us trembling to our knees
And we cried like drunken sailors
To the only one who hears
And the God of comfort took away our fears

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10. Gathering

The Psalms bid us, “Come.” As Israel journeyed to Jerusalem and entered the temple in praise, they beheld God’s beauty, remembered his works, celebrated unity, sought repentance and reconciliation, cried for justice, and longed for his word. When the church today takes these same Psalms on its lips, the invitation remains just as compelling: “Come and worship the Lord!”

“Yahweh (Psalm 84),” Adam Daniel Westlake, Britton Hardcastle, Carrie Elizabeth Hardcastle, George Douglas Koehl, Laela Beth Dasher, Mac Hayes, Max Dasher

Verse 1

There is nowhere else I'd rather be
Than seated in the presence of my King
You're the only One I'll ever need
Your majesty is all I want to see

Pre-Chorus

All I want is you; all I want is you

Chorus

My soul longs, even faints for the Lord in this place
You're the source of my strength, Yahweh
Forever home in your house
I'm standing on holy ground
Where all I want has been found Yahweh

Bridge

Even the sparrow finds a home
Even the weary find their rest
Just a day here in your courts
Is better than a thousand anywhere else

Tag

It's better than a thousand anywhere else
It's better than a thousand anywhere else
It's better than a thousand anywhere else
Yahweh

Verse 2

There is nowhere else I'd rather be
Than seated in the presence of my King

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