

Praise God

Psalm 145:1–5, 17–21

Bless God's Holy Name

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My Psalm of Praise

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Today's Bible Reading

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Ideas for Memory Work

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Additional Bible Readings

Haggai 1:15b–2:9

2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–17

Luke 20:27–38

God of rest and renewal, we seek what you alone can genuinely give. Break open our gratitude that we may fully embrace your good gifts.

Calm our hearts, minds, and spirits, so we may bask in the fullness of your glory. Amen.

Psalm 145:1–5, 17–21 is an acrostic poem. These verses start with the first five and last five letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This form often conveys the sense of having covered the subject “from A to Z.” The psalm is full of language that is striking in its absoluteness – the word “all” appearing seven times in four verses. This is a psalm of praise that holds line after line of testimony to the goodness of God, except for one phrase (not even a complete sentence) of judgment. Evident in this psalm is our desire for communion with God, which is what makes it possible to see and understand God's greatness. The role of humanity is to testify to that glory in all ways. Not wanting a relationship with God is what constitutes “wickedness.”

The remnant of exiles that returned to Judah wrestled with demoralization at the difficult prospect of rebuilding their homeland and religious centre. Jesus' contemporaries and early followers struggle with questions about life after death and wrestle with anxieties about the future. Today's passages subscribe to the importance of tradition, worship, and praise. Whether using, like the psalmist, a poetic form to inspire insight into God's grace, calling for a worship space in which the community can gather together, or following traditions that have been handed down in order to calm anxieties about the future, today's scriptures call God's people to centre themselves in worship and praise.

