

**Psalm 90: A prayer of Moses the man of God.**

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
- <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- <sup>3</sup> You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."
- <sup>4</sup> A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.
- <sup>5</sup> Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning:
- <sup>6</sup> In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.
- <sup>7</sup> We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.
- <sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- <sup>9</sup> All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.
- <sup>10</sup> Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
- <sup>11</sup> If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.
- <sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
- <sup>13</sup> Relent, LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.
- <sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
- <sup>15</sup> Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.
- <sup>16</sup> May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.
- <sup>17</sup> May the favor<sup>[a]</sup> of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

Have you ever heard, seen, or thought about something from long ago and said, "Wow! That really takes me back!"? Our Psalm for worship this Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> is Psalm 90. Psalm 90 is the only psalm in the whole book of Psalms that is attributed to Moses. Moses lived between 450 to 550 years before the reign of King David. So, we must assume that part of the reason for including it in the Book of Psalms is to "take us back". I find this timely, for my personal reading in scripture at this moment is from the book of Exodus. Every time I read that book I become even more impressed with Moses!

Psalm 90 begins with a reminder that even all those thousands of years ago, faith in God and God's care for His People was not new. Moses says:

***"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."***

Moses reminds us of the fleeting and delicate nature of our lives in this world. He reminds us that this life is often far from easy. And he reminds that we cannot depend upon ourselves to withstand either sin or decay in our lives. Moses says:

***"All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.  
<sup>10</sup> Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away."***

However, Moses doesn't want us to sink into despondency or despair. He calls upon us to hold on to God's eternal love, which

is within our grasp, and to know and believe even if we do not fully understand.

***"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."***



And so, let us pray along with Moses:

***<sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.***

In the light of Jesus Christ, we can bring back the words spoken even thousands of years ago and hear the promise of God ring in our lives again. So, let me close with a beautiful passage from the book of Hebrews 13:6-8:

**“ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?’ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”**

In Christ’s service,  
*Pastor Brian Shirey*

### *Post Scripts:*

- † Our lessons for this Sunday, November 15, the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, are:  
First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16  
Psalm 90:1-12  
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
- † It would seem that there is an increase in the need for COVID precautions in Butler County. It will certainly make life different for school children. We know that this pestilence will end, but I don’t think even the most optimistic among us is willing to offer a prediction about when that will be. But I think we are in a good place at St. Luke’s. I think that our expectations of what we can and cannot do are very realistic. So, we will just continue to take the precautions we have been taking. As I have said so often, thank you for your patience and your faithfulness.
- † Happily, we are now able to live-stream worship on YouTube. Please spread the word. It is one more tool for living out our life together at St. Luke’s. Thank you to Kelly Weston and all who help us take advantage of new opportunities. Visit the St. Luke’s YouTube channel or go to [stlks.com](http://stlks.com) and click on the Welcome to Worship icon. You can also view past services.

