

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September

**Read Psalm 114** This little Psalm recalls the exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt. This was such a seminal part in their story that it is often recalled and recounted. Here the purpose of remembering these far-off events is to make the point that God was present with his people, which is why they were able to leave and to find a way forward even when there seemed no way. Today think about any dead ends in your life and ask that God be present to show you the way forward.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September

**Read Psalm 115** The key to this Psalm is the first verses. It was written in a situation where the surrounding nations could point to images of their gods, and they were inclined to look at Israel's empty sanctuary and say, "Where is their God?" But God is not in the image but in the action, and so the reminder is that when anything is accomplished, we should be sure to point to God's presence and not take any glory to ourselves. Today, what will you find to give God glory for?

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

**Read Psalm 116** This is a Psalm of thanks for prayers answered. It is a prayer of gratitude from someone who wants to give to God in thanks. And what is to be given, in the end, is the whole self. Verse 16 says "I am your servant..." And twice the promise is given to make and keep public vows to God. What public vows have you made to God? (Baptisms, confirmations, memberships, weddings...) How will you let them show your gratitude today?

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September

**Read Psalm 117** This is the shortest Psalm in the Psalter! Read it three times and say Alleluia at the end!

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September

**Read Psalm 118** The first half of this Psalm is based around a personal experience of deliverance, but the point of telling it is so that everyone (v:1-3) will say, "His steadfast love endures forever." The second half of the Psalm, from verse 19, seems to be for use in a ceremonial procession, and you can find in it verses used when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, as well as verses picked up in New Testament teaching. But the beginning and end of the thought is that the steadfast love of God lasts forever.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September

**Read Psalm 119** Go on, read all of it! It is the longest chapter in the Bible, and full of good stuff. Read it and find out what it has to say about the power of God's word (law). And then ask yourself: if God's word is so good, why don't I spend more time reading and thinking about it?