

FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026 - DAY 15

Trusting God in Hard Times

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God. . . .

Prayer

By Jeong Ha Chun, who shares, "I planted Happy Church in Los Angeles, California, 18 years ago and have been serving there ever since. I'm also currently serving as the stated clerk alternate for Classis Hanmi in the CRC."

O Lord Almighty, how lovely is your dwelling place!

As we gather for Synod 2026 of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, our souls yearn, even faint, for the courts of the Lord. In a world of shifting sands and restless hearts, we find our home at your altar—the place where even the sparrow finds a place to nest. We confess that our only true strength is found in you, and our hearts are set on seeking your truth.

Lord, we acknowledge that the path through the "Valley of Baka" (Ps. 84:6) has often been dry and difficult for us.

Yet, by your grace, we pray that you would make it a place of springs.

Cover our deliberations with the living water of your Holy Spirit.

As we discuss the governance, mission, and theological integrity of our church, grant us strength.

Look with favor on your anointed ones.

We believe that “better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere”
(Ps. 84:10).

We would rather be doorkeepers in the house of our God than dwell in the mansions of worldly compromise.

We ask that you bless this synod as we strive to walk uprightly.

May our decisions reflect your righteousness and your heart for the lost.

Lord Almighty, blessed is the church that trusts in you.

Guide us, sanctify us, and unite us in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- What aspect of your life has lately felt most like a “Valley of Baka”?
- What refreshment have you found or do you long for?

FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 - DAY 16

Thankfulness

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 30

I will exalt you, Lord,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
Lord my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.
You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.
For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

When I felt secure, I said,
"I will never be shaken."
Lord, when you favored me,
you made my royal mountain stand firm;
but when you hid your face,
I was dismayed.

To you, Lord, I called;
to the Lord I cried for mercy:
"What is gained if I am silenced,
if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?"

Will it proclaim your faithfulness?
Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me;
Lord, be my help.”

You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

Prayer

By Aleah Marsden, pastor of formation at Christ Church of Davis in California, a CRCNA congregation that celebrated its fifteenth anniversary during Advent 2025. She is currently pursuing a D.Min. degree through the Eugene Peterson Center for Christian Imagination at Western Theological Seminary, and she has twice served as a delegate to synod from Classis Central California.

Dear God, it was after a fall, after being down in the depths, that the psalmist wrote this testimony of thanksgiving and praise. These are the words of a survivor looking back on suffering. This is not a thin, false veneer of thanks to cover over a dark reality lurking beneath. This is sturdy gratitude to you, our almighty God, who reached down into the depths and delivered one back to the heights.

The psalmist had been guilty of a misplaced faith in self-sufficiency that had erupted in the bold claim: “I will never be shaken.” In hindsight the psalmist gives the proper credit to the source of actual security. It was you all along. You were the One who had shown the psalmist favor on the mountaintop. You heard when the psalmist cried out for mercy after the fall. You, God, did for him what he could not do for himself: our God delivers us from the depths into a life of gratitude, of praise.

Eugene Peterson wrote of the psalmist’s prayer for mercy, “All prayer, pursued far enough, becomes praise. Any prayer, no matter how desperate its origin, no matter how angry and fearful the experiences it traverses, ends up in praise. It does not always get there quickly or easily—the trip can take a lifetime—but the end is always praise. No matter how much we suffer, no matter our doubts, no matter how angry we get, no matter how many times we have asked in desperation or doubt, ‘How long?’—prayer develops finally into praise. Praise is the consummating prayer” (from *Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer*). Help us to pray until we praise.

O Lord our God, forgive us when we foolishly rely on self-sufficiency. May all our prayers for mercy be brought to praise. Thank you for your faithfulness, your graciousness to bring restoration.

Amen.

Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- What past season can you look back on to see God's faithful intervention?
- What current trouble do you need to entrust to the God who lifts us "out of the depths"?

FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 - DAY 17

Thankfulness

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 40

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord
and put their trust in him. . . .

Prayer

By Rev. Dr. Elaine May, Thrive's Equip Team leader serving the denomination as a congregational renewal consultant. Elaine is currently directing the execution of a synodical mandate for every congregation to discover their unique missional identity and to align the church's vision and ministry with God's redemptive mission in the world.

Lord our God, you are our help and our deliverer; you are our God. Year after year you have been faithful. Day after day your love for us is steadfast and true. You hear our prayers. You alone know the breadth of our joy and the depth of our sorrow. You saved us from destruction and despair and have placed us on solid ground where we can stand firm again. You have given us new reasons to celebrate and praise you. Thank you for turning your face toward us, for being the God who sees and the One to respond with grace and mercy.

Many, Lord our God, are the wonders you have done, the things you have planned for us. Help us to courageously say yes to the plans you have for us to be agents of your renewing work in the world. Help us to hear your voice and to respond in obedience to the promptings of your Holy Spirit. God, we pray that we would be disciples of Jesus who demonstrate your steadfast love and who declare your faithfulness. We pray that many may see what you are doing in us and through us as a result of your grace, be amazed by your power, and start trusting you too.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- What are your “slimy pit . . . mud and mire” situations that you feel burdened or overwhelmed by right now?
- Where are the firm places on which the Lord is inviting you to stand?

FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026 - DAY 18

Thankfulness

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 96:11-13

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Prayer

By Rev. Kevin DeRaaf, director of Resonate Global Mission, the mission agency of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. He believes that God's purpose for the local church is to shine as a community of love and grace, showing in tangible ways that Jesus is the hope of the world. He and his wife, Jacquie, are members of Faith CRC in Burlington, Ontario, and have three children and six grandchildren.

Our good and gracious God, we agree with the psalmist and declare: "Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound and all that is in it."

May you find in us a personal response to your voice ringing out toward us. Our prayer is that the good news of Jesus would resonate deeply within our hearts and that we would affirm your rule and reign over our lives with faith and trust.

We also pray that the good news of your voice may resound in your church. Thank you for the worldwide community of Jesus that you continue to shape and refine by your Spirit. None of us walks alone in our journey with you. Thank you that it is

often in fellowship with others that we most clearly encounter your voice and your living presence.

We celebrate and acknowledge your greatness reverberating through all creation. With the earth and the sea we declare with joy and trust: “Our God reigns!” Give us eyes to see that despite the brokenness of this fallen world, creation itself continues to declare the glory and majesty of its Maker—the heavens rejoicing, the sea roaring, the fields exulting in praise.

We pray that the words of Psalm 96 may ring true for the Christian Reformed Church today. May my life ring out joyfully because I have been changed through the love and forgiveness of my Savior, Jesus. With freedom and celebration, I sing the resounding song of creation and proclaim that the Lord is great and “most worthy of praise.”

Amen.

Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- What concerns or problems are clouding your vision for the signs of God's goodness and glory?
- Where can you turn for a powerful reminder that “our God reigns”?

FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 - DAY 19

Thankfulness

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Prayer

By Ellen Joy Sharpe, who shares, "I grew up in Farmington, New Mexico, where my father, Herman Schripsema, was a CRC missionary to the Navajo people. When I married Jon Sharpe 58 years ago, I knew that Alaska would someday be our home. Leading Coffee Break at Trinity Christian Reformed Church in Anchorage, Alaska, has been my joy for 23 years. I am retired from a career teaching orchestra in the Anchorage School District."

Lord, we come before you with joyful shouts and thankful praise. We are glad to be in your presence as your dependent children. You have made us, and we belong to you.

Your goodness and love are evident in your constant provision and in the tender love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We see your faithfulness and know we can depend on your love in the future. We rejoice in infants who are able to see, hear, and taste your

goodness. We rejoice in young children who trust your provision implicitly. We rejoice in teens who follow your guidance as they make life decisions. We rejoice in young adults whom you guide to service in your kingdom. We rejoice in families who reach into their communities to demonstrate your love in their neighborhoods and across the world. We rejoice in senior citizens who acknowledge your faithfulness through decades of service.

Thank you that for over two thousand years you have brought a diverse crowd from every tribe, tongue, and nation to unity in your church, even as we have struggled in our exercise of humility, self-sacrifice, and unity. Thank you for the assurance of your mercy and grace in Christ Jesus.

In your faithfulness, Lord, you have provided heroes to guide your church in each generation—Paul, John, Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Martin Luther King Jr., to name only a few. Guide the delegates to Synod 2026 to be faithful disciples, demonstrating your goodness and unfailing love in every discussion and decision. May they worship with gladness and burst out with songs of joy and praise, always remembering that you are the God who made us and that we are your people, your chosen bride, through all generations of your faithful love.

In Christ,

Amen.

Questions for reflection and/or conversation:

- What hurts, worries, or distractions may be preventing you from fully embracing your status as God's beloved child?
- What is one way you can celebrate your place in God's family by connecting with your church family this week?

FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026 - DAY 20

Thankfulness

Suggested Bible Reading:

(Khmer) ទំនុកតម្កកឹង 133:1-3 គកស១៦

មីលី ការដលែបងបុរសរស់នៅជាមួយគ្នា ដោយចិត្តតុរមព្យៀង នោះជាការលអ ហីយសមគួរយ៉ាងណាទៅ!
គឺធៀបដូចជាបុរសដើរសេដលែចាក់លីកុហាល ក៏ហូរចុះមកដល់ពុកចង្កកា គឺជាពុកចង្កកាបស់លាកអ៊ុន រួច
សុរកទៅដល់ជាយអាររបស់លាកផង!

ក៏ធៀបដូចជាទឹកសនុសីមនៅលីកុនិហិរម្លុន ដលែធុលាក់មកលីកុនិកុន្តែកុន្តែសីយ៉ុន ដុបិតនៅទីនោះ ពុះយហ្វេវ៉ាហាន
បងគាប់ឲ្យមានពុះពរ គឺជាជីវិតដលែនៅអសកលុបជានិច្ច។

Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.

It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

ការអធិស្ឋាន (Prayer)

សចេកុតិអធិស្ឋាននេះ រាបរៀងដោយ អុនកសុរី ណារី ចនុធា

ពុះបិតាដីមានពុះជនុមនៅសុថានស្នុគី យឹងថុវាយនូវការសរសើរដល់ពុះអង្គគ សមរស់ការរួបរួមគ្នា
របស់កុរុមជំនុដូចដលែពុះបនុទូ លកុនុង ទំនុកដំកឹង ១៣៣:១ ហានចងែថា៖ «មីលី ការដលែបងបុរស

រស់នៅជាមួយគ្នាដោយចិត្តត្រឡប់គ្នា ព្រមព្រៀង នោះជាការល្អ ហើយសមគួរយ៉ាងណាទៅ!»។ នៅក្នុងបរទេស កម្ពុជា ក្រុមជំនុំសង្ឃឹមយីហ្វេស៊ីស និងគ្រីស្ទបរិស័ទមាននៅគ្រប់ភូមិក្នុងរយៈពេលមួយទី សរ តស៊ីខាងមុខ សូមព្រះអង្គជួយដឹកនាំ ដើម្បីសម្រេចចិត្តខ្លីស្វែងរកតាមរយៈការសហការគ្នា ។

ព្រះអម្ចាស់អើយ សូមបង្ហាញបង្ហាញក្រុមជំនុំ រូបកាយរបស់ព្រះអង្គគ ផ្លាស់ដៃៗ ឲ្យកុលាយជារូបកាយ តម្លៃយក្នុងព្រះគ្រីស្ទ។ សូមលុបបំបាត់ឧបសគ្គគន្លៃការបំបែកបាក់ និងជំរុញឲ្យមានសច្ចៈសុទ្ធសុទ្ធជា គ្នាទៅវិញទៅមក ដើម្បីជាទីបន្ទាល់របស់យើងពីព្រះអង្គគ។ សូមផ្តល់អំណាចដល់ក្រុមជំនុំ បង្កើតសិស្សស្នាក់នៅផ្តល់ឱកាស បន្ទាប់មកពង្រីកទៅ កាន់មិត្ត រួមការងារនៅទីផ្សារ កន្លែងធ្វើការ និងសហការជាមួយបេសកកម្ម ក្នុងស្រុក ដើម្បីផ្តល់ដំណឹងល្អអន្តរៈយស្មើនៅគ្រប់ភូមិទូទាំងបរទេស។

សូមបំពាក់យើងដោយធនធានដ៏ល្អមានដូចជា៖ កមរិធី ដើម្បី Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) ដើម្បីបណ្តុះបណ្តាលគ្រូគង្វាល និងអ្នកដឹកនាំសាមញ្ញ ដោយផ្អែកលើព្រះបន្ទូល និងជាកំណត់ដៃ សម្រាប់ការបម្រើប្រកបដោយនិរន្តរភាព និងគុណភាព។ បំផុសគំនិតការស្រាវជ្រាវ ព្រះបន្ទូលតាមរយៈសៀវភៅ Coffee Break ដើម្បីពង្រឹងសច្ចៈគ្រីស្ទិយន៍ខ្លួន ជំរុញក្រុម តូចៗឲ្យសកម្ម និងទាក់ទាញអ្នកស្រីរកមកព្រះយស្មើ។ បរិសម្ភារៈពី Multiplication Network ដើម្បីដាក់ក្រុមជំនុំដល់អាចដាក់បន្តទៀត និងវាយតម្លៃការរីកចម្រើនរបស់ក្រុមជំនុំ។ បរិបទករណីដូចជា Take Your Church Pulse ដើម្បីវាយតម្លៃ និងពង្រឹងសមត្ថភាព របស់ក្រុមជំនុំ ធានាថាសហគមន៍រីកលូតលាស់។ បញ្ជូលសម្ភារៈដាក់ក្រុមជំនុំ ឲ្យមានសុខភាព ល្អ ដើម្បីពង្រឹងសហគមន៍ដ៏ល្អផ្តាច់ដំណឹងល្អ និងអាចផ្តល់ដំណឹងល្អបន្តទៀតបាន។ សូមឲ្យសម្ភារៈទាំងនេះ បរិបូរស្រាប់ក្នុងការប្រើប្រាស់ បញ្ជូលព្រលឹមលបរបស់ព្រះអង្គគ — ដូចជា ប្រវត្តិដ៏មានតម្លៃ — ធីតាឲ្យអ្នកដឹកនាំស្រីស្ទើរវិញ និងមានសិស្សស្នាក់នៅពេញហូតដល់ភូមិដាច់ស្រយាល ។ សូមការពារយើងពីការឈ្លោះប្រកែកគ្នា បំពេញយើងដោយអំណរ ក្នុងការងាររួមគ្នា និងដឹកនាំយើងឲ្យគ្រប់ភូមិត្រូវបានទទួលបាននូវសច្ចៈសុទ្ធសុទ្ធជា របស់ព្រះអង្គគ។

ក្នុងព្រះនាមព្រះយស្មើ អាម៉ែន។

Prayer

By Navy Chann, a missionary with Resonate Global Mission in Cambodia.

Heavenly Father,

We praise you for the beauty of unity among your people, as declared in Psalm 133:1. In Cambodia, where we long to see disciples and Christian groups in every village within the next decade, we seek your guidance to fulfill this vision through harmonious collaboration.

Lord, unite churches across denominations as one body in Christ. Remove barriers of division and foster mutual love so that our shared witness shines brightly. Empower believers to make disciples in their families, to share your good news with colleagues in markets and workplaces, and to partner with local churches to proclaim the gospel in villages, towns, and cities nationwide.

Equip us with proven resources: Use Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) to train pastors and lay leaders biblically and practically for sustainable ministry and multiplication. Inspire Coffee Break Bible study programs to nurture personal faith, spark vibrant small groups, and draw seekers to Jesus. Draw from Multiplication Network materials to plant reproducing churches and assess growth. Apply tools like Take Your Church Pulse to evaluate and strengthen church health, ensuring that congregations thrive. Incorporate church planting and healthy church resources to build reproducing, gospel-centered communities.

May these materials, used in unity, release your abundant blessings—like precious oil—refreshing leaders and multiplying disciples from Phnom Penh to remote villages. Protect us from discord, fill us with joy in joint labor, and lead us to see every village touched by your transforming love.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- What might be holding you back from hoping and praying for a more unified global church?
- How can you equip yourself to pray for and feel more connected to the global church?

FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026 - DAY 21

Trusting God in Uncertainty

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 3

Lord, how many are my foes!

How many rise up against me!

Many are saying of me,

“God will not deliver him.”

But you, Lord, are a shield around me,

my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

I call out to the Lord,

and he answers me from his holy mountain.

I lie down and sleep;

I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

I will not fear though tens of thousands

assail me on every side.

Arise, Lord!

Deliver me, my God!

Strike all my enemies on the jaw;

break the teeth of the wicked.

From the Lord comes deliverance.

May your blessing be on your people.

Prayer

By Brian Ochsner, who grew up in the CRC and has been a pastor in various churches for 20 years. With his wife, Becky, and their five children, they cultivate an integrated life through stewarding: a local church, an acreage where they raise produce and cattle, and a love for learning through curiosity and exploration. When he is not in his study or checking cattle, he is most likely spending time outdoors with a cup of coffee close by.

Dear God,

We confess that as we may wonder alongside David, “How many are my foes?” what often comes to mind is the wrong enemy. Father, you teach us in your Word that our enemies are not flesh and blood but the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Yet we have often been misguided in who our true enemies are.

Father, forgive us when we turn fellow believers into our enemies; fighting – not fellowshiping – with them.

Father, forgive us when we create enemies by twisting the servant-hearted truth of the kingdom to promote the self and protect our power.

Father, forgive us when we are so focused on the wrong enemies that we miss the true enemy seeding anger, division, and pride into our hearts.

We ask, Father, that you let us experience you as a shield around us, not only defending us from our real enemies but also giving us a discerning heart to know whom we have made an enemy that should not be.

As we experience you as our shield, drive away the fear that entrenches us against one another. Make our hearts at peace, trusting that you will sustain us, sustain your church, and sustain your glory.

As we experience you as our shield, let us experience your power and deliverance.

Help us believe that you who are in us are “greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4), and let that free us to work side by side with one another, loving what you love and hating what you hate. Focus our hearts on the work you have called us to do.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- Whom might you have made an enemy that should not be?
- How does experiencing God as a shield give you assurance that God sustains his church?