



Weekly Lenten Devotional – Week 3: Am I clinging to God?

Hello Church Family,

I pray the peace of our Savior Jesus Christ finds you well this morning. I hope the beginning of your third week of Lent is going well and these weekly devotionals are enriching your study of God's word. May God continue to sustain you during this Lenten season.

Sunday, we read Psalm 63:1-8 and Luke 13:1-9 in worship. I discussed in my sermon how the Psalm claims God's steadfast love is what sustains our entire beings. God is the source for our life, salvation, and being in this world. Essentially, God's steadfast love is the one needful thing for life.

The Lenten question from Ash Wednesday I would like for you to ponder this week in relationship to Psalm 63 and Luke 13 is: *Am I relying on God to sustain and restore my life? Or are there other things I am turning to in place of God's holy sustenance? Am I clinging to God?*

If you keep reading Psalm 63, verses 9-11, seem to take a turn away from the first eight verses focus. Psalm 63:8 summarizes the focus of the Psalm up until verse 8 by saying, "My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me" (Psalm

63:8). But if you keep reading, the tone of the Psalm changes in verse 9:

Psa. 63:9 But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
Psa. 63:10 they shall be given over to the power of the sword,
they shall be prey for jackals.
Psa. 63:11 But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

I wonder if King David might have been turning to revenge as something which might sustain him amid his wilderness experience. We know he was in the wilderness hiding from one adversary or another, potentially even his own son Absalom who had tried to overthrow him as king. It seems David is wavering in this trust for God even as he just finished proclaiming it.

It is far easier to slip into hate, selfishness, and a scarcity mindset which causes us to be more concerned for ourselves than anyone else. But these things will not sustain us. Revenge may bring us energy as we contemplate them “being pray for jackals,” (Psalm 63:10) but revenge will not bring about the healing our wounds need.

This is probably why the Revised Common Lectionary had us stop at verse 8 for one Sunday. There is much more to discuss and think about in these last three verses of Psalm 63. There is more humanity in them, woundedness, and fear. So, what can they teach us now that we’re past Sunday morning?

David was human just like we are and it is easy to slip from trusting God into being consumed by the things which concern us. Therefore, we are reminded through these last three verses of our own tendency to quickly forget where our real hope and life source come from. It’s easy for us to forget Psalm 63:1-8 and remember what our souls really need, what they must cling to like the tendril of a vine clings to its support – God’s steadfast love.

So, as you read Psalm 63:1-11 – think about the ways you are already relying

God to sustain you and restore your soul? How can you root yourself deeper into God's steadfast love? But, also think about what you might need to let go of and replace with God's abiding presence? How can you allow God to restore your life?

I pray the reading of this Psalm and Lenten questions meet you right where you are and draw you deeper into God's loving embrace this day. Amen!

Still growing in grace,

Rev. Kristen Perkins Glover

Copyright © 2025 First United Methodist Church Gordon, All rights reserved.