

Dayenu! THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

If He had brought us out from Egypt,  
and had not carried out judgments against them

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

If He had carried out judgments against them,  
and not against their idols

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

If He had destroyed their idols,  
and had not smitten their first-born

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

If He had smitten their first-born,  
and had not given us their wealth

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

If He had given us their wealth,  
and had not split the sea for us

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

If He had split the sea for us,  
and had not taken us through it on dry land

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

If He had taken us through the sea on dry land,  
and had not drowned our oppressors in it

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

If He had drowned our oppressors in it,  
and had not supplied our needs in the desert for forty years

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

If He had supplied our needs in the desert for forty years,

and had not fed us the manna  
— Dayenu, it would have been enough!  
If He had fed us the manna,  
and had not given us the Shabbat  
— Dayenu, it would have been enough!  
If He had given us the Shabbat,  
and had not brought us before Mount Sinai  
— Dayenu, it would have been enough!  
If He had brought us before Mount Sinai,  
and had not given us the Torah  
— Dayenu, it would have been enough!  
If He had given us the Torah,  
and had not brought us into the land of Israel  
— Dayenu, it would have been enough!  
If He had brought us into the land of Israel,  
and not built for us the Holy Temple  
— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

## **Dayenu –it would have been enough!**

If you plan to follow along with the Facebook Live version of this message at <https://www.facebook.com/Ashland-Presbyterian-Church-109609189074439/> at 11 a.m. Sunday March 15, you may want to have this text available to you to follow along – especially with the readings.

And you may want to watch this version of the song Dayanu ahead of time – just for fun:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZgDNPGZ9Sg>

Yes – it is in Hebrew (Translation above)

## ***Liturgy based on Psalm 106***

### **Call to Confession**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, God's steadfast love endures forever.

***People: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.***

Leader: Both we and our ancestors have sinned. We have committed iniquity. We have done wickedly. Let us confess our sin, so we may restore our desire for righteousness and turn our actions toward justice.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Unison

Our memory is the worst. Merciful God, You deliver us from captivity to freedom, only for us to complain in the desert. You feed us and find us water in the desert, only for us to turn to the worship of idols. You take us to the Promised Land, only for us to forget our end of the covenant in rebellion. We forget you in both word and in deed, and yet you hear the repeated cries of your wayward children. Save us, again, O Lord our God, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

### **Moment of Silence for Personal Confession**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting. Know that God remembers the covenant, and consistently shows us steadfast love. Let all the people say: Amen.

***People: Amen.***

Leader: Praise the Lord.

***People: Praise the Lord.***

# Psalm 136

## God's Work in Creation and in History

- <sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup>O give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- <sup>3</sup>O give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>4</sup>who alone does great wonders,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>5</sup>who by understanding made the heavens,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>6</sup>who spread out the earth on the waters,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>7</sup>who made the great lights,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>8</sup>the sun to rule over the day,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>9</sup>the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>10</sup>who struck Egypt through their firstborn,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>11</sup>and brought Israel out from among them,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>12</sup>with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>13</sup>who divided the Red Sea<sup>[a]</sup> in two,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>14</sup>and made Israel pass through the midst of it,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>15</sup>but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,<sup>[b]</sup>  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>16</sup>who led his people through the wilderness,

for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>17</sup>who struck down great kings,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>18</sup>and killed famous kings,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>19</sup>Sihon, king of the Amorites,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>20</sup>and Og, king of Bashan,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>21</sup>and gave their land as a heritage,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>22</sup>a heritage to his servant Israel,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>23</sup>It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>24</sup>and rescued us from our foes,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>25</sup>who gives food to all flesh,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>26</sup>O give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

# Psalm 78

## God's Goodness and Israel's Ingratitude

*A Maskil of Asaph.*

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
<sup>2</sup>I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
<sup>3</sup>things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.  
<sup>4</sup>We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.  
<sup>5</sup>He established a decree in Jacob,  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach to their children;  
<sup>6</sup>that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and rise up and tell them to their children,  
<sup>7</sup>so that they should set their hope in God,  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;  
<sup>8</sup>and that they should not be like their ancestors,  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,  
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

## Psalm 105:1-11

### God's Faithfulness to Israel

- <sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- <sup>2</sup>Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.
- <sup>3</sup>Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- <sup>4</sup>Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.
- <sup>5</sup>Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
- <sup>6</sup>O offspring of his servant Abraham,<sup>[a]</sup>  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- <sup>7</sup>He is the LORD our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.
- <sup>8</sup>He is mindful of his covenant forever,  
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
- <sup>9</sup>the covenant that he made with Abraham,  
his sworn promise to Isaac,
- <sup>10</sup>which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
- <sup>11</sup>saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as your portion for an inheritance."

All four of the psalms for this week are historical psalms, prayers that recount the times God has been active in the history of God's people, and the people's response.

- 1) With Confession and Repentance: Both we and our ancestors have sinned (Psalm 106)
- 2) With Gratitude: O give thanks to the Lord; God's steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 136)
- 3) With Education: We will tell to the coming generation the deeds of the Lord (Psalm 78)
- 4) With a Freedom Song: Sing to God, tell of all God's Wonderful Works (Psalm 105)

There are some questions that come up when we start believing that God is active in the world. These psalms especially give rise to both the questions and some potential answers:

- 1) Are we rewarded or punished for our behaviors?
- 2) If we thank God for good things, do we also have to thank God for bad things, for ALL the things?
- 3) What do we teach our children about who God is by looking backward?
- 4) Why do we talk about God in such glowing terms? What is it about God that sets us free?

If you watch Facebook live at 11 a.m. on Sunday – I'll plan to reflect on these psalms and these questions in conversation.

If you are reading this on your own – these are your texts and their corresponding reflection questions.

Youtube versions of the hymns we planned to sing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNOX3ha5IL0> - Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sX9fj4Tszw> – The God of Abraham Praise, The Outreach Quartet

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kv8\\_3VXyETM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kv8_3VXyETM) – Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples of the Lord, First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska