

## The Timeless Psalms

by Joan Stott

## A Call to Worship Pentecost 9 [17], Year C, Psalm 85

L: O Lord our Generous God, you have blessed us so abundantly with your mercy and your grace.

P: We give thanks for your unconditional love.

May our worship bring honour to God's holy name.

L: Gracious God, each day you show us your unfailing love, and we respond joyfully to your gift of salvation.

P: May we experience the blessedness of your peace.

May our worship bring praise to God's holy name.

L: God's dependable love and truth are God's gifts to God's faithful people; and God's joy their sacred sign.
P: May God's Shalom guide us each and every day.
May our worship bring glory to God's holy name. Amen.

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## Prayers of Thankfulness and Petition Pentecost 9 [17], Year C, Psalm 85

O Lord our Generous and Righteous God, we give thanks for all your past mercies and the blessings you have showered over your people - that has renewed their hope and joy; and further built on their trust, confidence and faith in you. Through your mercy, you have healed their differences and guided their path to salvation and to right and holy living. We add our responses to those of people in past generations.

O God, there are times when we, too, have wondered if you are angry with us, and for how long would this anger would last? At times, we become anxious and confused about what to expect from God, both now and in the future. But you patiently call us to listen, to be still, to hear your words of peace, justice and mercy; and O God, you offer to us the blessings of your holy strength.

Merciful God, help us to understand that we each need to turn aside, to turn away from our sin and failure, and to be forgiven by God's rich mercy. Help us to believe, and to have faith and trust in the power and blessing of God's salvation, and in the hope that God will restore us to our former blessed relationship. Help us to believe that God's continuing relationship is one of love and acceptance; and of forgiveness and total restoration.

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Gift-Giving God, you shower us with your amazing generosity! We look forward with joy to receiving these, your wondrous gifts that are freely shared with all who faithfully love and serve God. Your promised gifts of an abundance of creation's bounty. Your promised gifts of truth and an understanding of your truth. Your promised gifts of grace, peace, harmony, joy and right living. Your promised gift of life itself - as we serve you – and humanity in your name – which is Holiness, Peace, Justice, Love and Joy. Amen.

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## A Personal Meditation Pentecost 9 [17], Year C, Psalm 85

O my God, how can I thank you? How can I adequately express my pleasure, my joy, my thanks that you have not turned away from me, and that you are not angry with me? I rejoice in the trust and knowledge I have of God when from past experiences, I know that God does not hold grudges. I know that God is not petty like me! I puff myself up with indignation and cling to real or imagined offences against me! But God is the opposite to these childish and wilful emotions, and to these self-centred tantrums.

Creative pause: God does not hold grudges!

O my God, how can I thank you? How can I adequately express my relief and my joy that you will continue to show your unfailing love to me - your love for me - and that your saving grace is there—ready for me to receive? I listen carefully and prayerfully for God's words to me, God's words of renewal and restoration; God's words of hope and peace; God's words of guidance, wisdom and blessing.

Creative pause: I continue to listen for God's words to me.

O my God, how can I thank you? How can I adequately express my feelings of hope and trust in your promises? You know that I always seek to honour and worship you; and even when I fail in this, I know I can trust in your unfailing forgiveness, if I turn aside from my foolishness, my pride and my sin; and try to start afresh with you.

Creative pause: I know I can trust in God's mercy.

O my God, how can I thank you? How can I adequately express my amazement at your promises! Your peace is like new growth bursting out of the earth into richness of life! Your peace is like a trusting embrace - a kiss of shalom! The promise of your blessing and love is like a monarch's herald going before me, preparing the way for me to follow in God's steps of truth and bountiful living; and that journeying with my God is as warming as a loving smile!

Creative pause: Each day, my life is filled with God's blessings!

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