



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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