

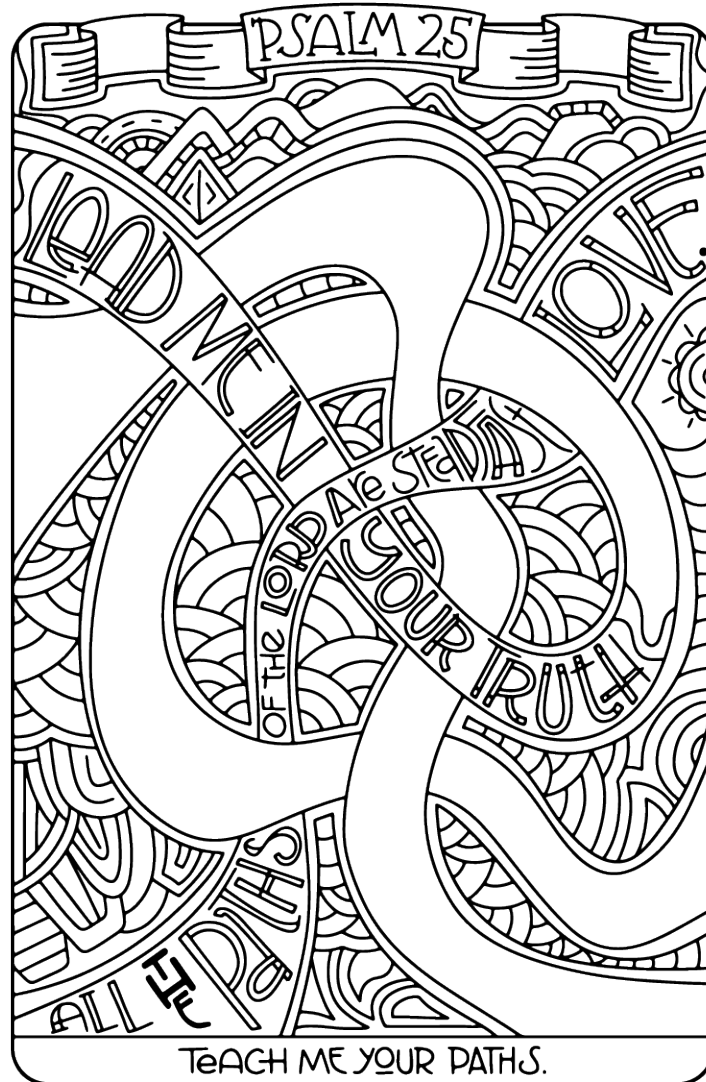


**Nativity
Lutheran Church**

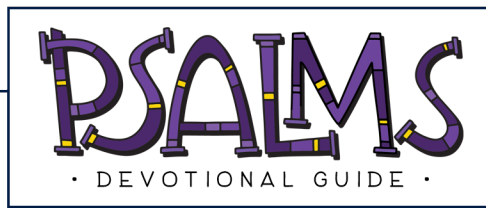
Lent Midweek Worship - 2021

PSALMS

• DEVOTIONAL GUIDE •



Psalms Coloring Posters • Psalm 25: 1-10 • illustratedchildrensministry.com



PSALM 25

READ

Psalms 25:1-10

LISTEN

Psalms 25 from The Psalms Project: Volume 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjVoPBuBRj8>

REFLECTION FOR ADULTS

If you've ever been to Venice, you know what an amazing and confusing city it is. From the minute you step off the boat, you're aware you've entered a city like none other...a place without any streets or cars, only a maze of seemingly winding pathways and back alleys. Smart guidebooks will tell you to put the map down and just start walking. Just walk, looking up and around, taking in the sights of this beautiful city. After a while however, you begin to realize you can never really get lost in Venice. Sure, you may get sidetracked for an hour or two. But you will always manage to find your way into a tiny piazza with a small little church on the corner. Or better yet...you seem to always loop around to the grand Piazza San Marco! And in front of you is St. Mark's, the church that takes your breath away every time you see it.

The writer of Psalm 25 (David perhaps?) seems to find himself in a similar predicament as the Venetian traveler. He's gone down some back alleys, taken a couple wrong turns in life. *Don't remember my youthful sins or transgressions.*¹ It's tempting to think all is lost in those moments of life when we know we have veered off the path. Certainly, David's tryst with Bathsheba, and the subsequent murder of her husband to cover up the transgression, must have weighed heavily upon David throughout his life. But in this psalm we see someone who desires to find their way back. Someone who wishes to remember the path he learned about in his youth.

*Make me know your ways, ADONAI, teach me your paths.*² An amazing thing happens when you're walking around Venice. As you loop around the same paths over and over again, you begin to see things in a different light...literally. The colors of the buildings transform throughout the day as the light of the sun, and then of the moon, mysteriously reflect them into the shifting waters of the canals. And this is exactly the way it is with us throughout the seasons of our own lives. The simple lessons

¹ Psalm 25:7 (Complete Jewish Bible)

² Psalm 25:4, Ibid.

we learned as children in Sunday School take on newer or more nuanced meanings as we grow and mature. This verse is a prayer to call to mind the spiritual truths we already know. Many times, when we are walking in circles, we already know what is needed to get back on the path. The Bible verses we learned as a child, the hymns we sang as a youth, and the sermons we heard as a young adult can still resonate in our inner being if we will just call them to mind.

*All ADONAI'S paths are grace and truth to those who keep (God's) covenant and instructions.*³ J.R.R. Tolkien once wrote "Not all those who wander are lost."⁴ When we find ourselves, like King David of old, wandering around the pathways of life, it's good to remember the paths of God are always grace and truth. We may be lost for a season. We may wander for a time. But just as the patient traveler in Venice is rewarded by the beautiful sight of Piazza San Marco after a day of diversions, so will God's faithful people be rewarded by the beautiful sight of grace and truth awaiting those who remember the ways and paths of God.

REFLECTION FOR CHILDREN

Has your family ever taken a long trip somewhere? If so, your mom or dad probably took a look at a map to figure out how you would get to your destination. Maybe they used an app on their phone or the GPS in your car. Or maybe they got out an actual atlas and everyone gathered around it to see where you were going. Sometimes we can think of our life like a trip we are taking back to God. Thankfully, God doesn't leave us on our own to get lost. God puts people in our lives that will help us when we're unsure of where to go next. God also gives us stories in the Bible of others who have gone on similar journeys before, and we can learn from them as well! Psalm 25 is a prayer asking God to help us remember how God's word to us in the Bible can help us on our journeys.

DISCUSSION WITH CHILDREN

- Find a place on a map you would like to visit. What kinds of things would you have to do to get there?
- Can you think of one commandment of God that might help you to live a good life?

GOING DEEPER

- What Bible verse did you learn as a child that has a deeper or more profound meaning for you now as an adult?
- Recall a time in your life when you were seemingly lost. What helped you get back on God's path of grace and truth?

³ Psalm 25:10 (Complete Jewish Bible)

⁴ "All That Is Gold Does Not Glitter" by J.R.R. Tolkien