

PSALM 136 – Thanksgiving to God for His Enduring Mercy!

11/20/21 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD Martin Rinckart (1636) Royal Albert Hall, London (2:39)

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, to keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills of this world in the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

PSALM 136 - His Steadfast Love Endures Forever - sung in (1 Chr 16:41; 2 Chr. 7:3,6) & Jehoshaphat 3-fold praise to the Triune God

Psa 136:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Psa 136:2 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.

Psa 136:3 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever:

Six notes of praise to the Creator

Psa 136:4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:5 To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:6 To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:7 To Him who made great lights, For His mercy endures forever—

Psa 136:8 The sun to rule by day, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy endures forever.

Six more from deliverance from Egypt

Psa 136:10 To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:11 And brought out Israel from among them, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:12 With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:13 To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His mercy endures forever;

Seven more from journey through wilderness and entrance into Canaan

Psa 136:16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:17 To Him who struck down great kings, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:18 And slew famous kings, For His mercy endures forever—

Psa 136:19 Sihon king of the Amorites, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:20 And Og king of Bashan, For His mercy endures forever—

Psa 136:21 And gave their land as a heritage, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:22 A heritage to Israel His servant, For His mercy endures forever.

Two more re personal gratitude for present mercy

Psa 136:23 Who remembered us in our lowly state, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:24 And rescued us from our enemies, For His mercy endures forever;

One verse to tell of the Lord's universal providence

Psa 136:25 Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever.

Closing verse to excite never ending praise

Psa 136:26 Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 136 – This psalm is known as an antiphonal psalm that is it was to be sung back and forth. The priests, it was thought, took the first part and then the congregation would answer the second part; that is “**for His mercy endures forever**”. It would go in a rhythmic kind of a way in which in their gathering, in their worship to God, it would be back and forth. **Notice the truth that was impressed in their heart** by the time they finished that psalm? The truth that God wants to implant deep and indelibly within our hearts is that “**His mercy endures forever**”. All you have to do is call upon the Lord. His mercy is available for you. It really does not matter what the sin may be, how serious your refraction or how great your rebellion. **If you will turn to God and ask His forgiveness you will discover that His mercy endures forever!**

Psa 136:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

- “**Oh give thanks to the Lord.**” The exhortation is intensely earnest: the Psalmist pleads with the Lord's people with an “Oh,” repeating it three times. Thanks are the least that we can offer, and these we ought freely to give.

- **“For He is good.”** Essentially, He is goodness itself, practically all that He does is good, relatively, He is good to His creatures. Let us thank Him that we have seen, proved, and tasted that He is good. He is good beyond all others; indeed, He alone is good in the highest sense; He is the source of good, the good of all good, the Sustainer of good, the Perfecter of good, and the Rewarder of good. For this He deserves the constant gratitude of His people. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** We shall have this repeated in every verse of this song, but not once too often. It is the sweetest stanza that a man can sing! What joy that there is mercy! Mercy with Jehovah, enduring mercy. Mercy enduring forever.

Psa 136:2 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.

- **“O give thanks to the God of gods,”** If there be powers in heaven or on earth worthy of the name of gods, He is the God of them, from Him their dominion comes, their authority is derived from Him, and their very existence is dependent upon His will. **“for His mercy endures forever.”** Imagine supreme Godhead without everlasting mercy! It would then have been as fruitful a source of terror as it is now a fountain of thanksgiving.

Psa 136:3 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever:

- **“O give thanks to the Lord of lords.”** There are lords many, but Jehovah is the Lord of them all. All lordship is vested in the Eternal. He makes and administers law, He rules and governs mind and matter, He possesses in Himself all sovereignty and power. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Yes, He mingles mercy with His justice, and reigns for the benefit of His subjects. A third time let us thank Him who is our Jehovah, our God, and our Lord; and let this one reason suffice us for three thanksgivings, or for three thousand -

Psa 136:4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“To Him who alone does great wonders.”** Jehovah is the great Wonderworker. None can be likened unto Him, He is alone in wonderland, the Creator and Worker of true marvels, compared with which all other remarkable things are as child's play. It is exceedingly wonderful that men should worship gods who can do nothing, and forget the Lord who alone doeth great wonders. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** alone; therefore let us not trust in men, or idolize them, or tremble before them. Praise is to be rendered to Jehovah. The mercy of the wonder is the wonder of the mercy; and the enduring nature of that mercy is the central wonder of that wonder.

Psa 136:5 To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“To Him who by wisdom made the heavens.”** His goodness appears in creating the upper regions. He set His wisdom to the task of fashioning a firmament, or an atmosphere suitable for a world upon which mortal men should dwell. What a mass of wisdom lies hidden in this one creating act! **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Mercy is far-reaching, long-enduring, all-encompassing. Nothing is too high for its reach, as nothing is beneath its stoop. High as heaven His wisdom reigns, Mercy on the throne remains.

Psa 136:6 To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“To Him who laid out the earth above the waters.”** Who but the Lord could have wrought this marvel? Few even think of the divine wisdom and power which performed all this of old; yet, if a continent can be proved to have risen or fallen an inch within historic memory, the fact is recorded in the “transactions” of learned societies, and discussed at every gathering of philosophers. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** By His strength He sets fast the mountains and consolidates the land upon which we sojourn. From the flood He lifts the land. Firm His mercies ever stand.

Psa 136:7 To Him who made great lights, For His mercy endures forever—

- **“To Him that made great lights.”** This also is a creating miracle worthy of our loudest thanks. What could men have done without light? Though they had the heavens above them, and dry land to move upon, yet what could they see, and where could they go without light? Thanks be to the Lord, who has not consigned us to darkness. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Mercy gleams in every ray of light, and it is most clearly seen in the arrangement by which it is distributed with order and regularity from the sun and moon.

Psa 136:8 The sun to rule by day, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“The sun to rule by day.”** The sun is a great ruler, and His government is the pure doing good, because by God's mercy it is moderated to our feebleness; let all who rule take lessons from the sun which rules to bless. By day we may well give thanks, for God gives cheer. The sun rules because God rules. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Day unto day utters speech concerning the mercy of the Lord; every sunbeam is a mercy, for it falls on undeserving sinners who else would sit in doleful darkness, and find earth a hell.

Eternally. Psa 136:9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy endures forever.

- **“The moon and stars to rule by night.”** No hour is left without rule. Blessed be God, He leaves us never to the doom of anarchy. The rule is one of light and benediction. The moon with her charming changes, and the stars in their fixed spheres gladden the night. The Lord is the Maker of every star, be the stars what they may; He calls them all by their names. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Let our thanks be as many as the stars, and let our lives reflect the goodness of the Lord, even as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

Psa 136:10 To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, For His mercy endures forever;

- We have heard of the glory of the world's creation, we are now to praise the Lord for the creation of His favored nation by their Exodus from Egypt. **“To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn.”** The last and greatest of the plagues struck all Egypt to the heart. The sorrow and the terror which it caused throughout the nation it is hardly possible to exaggerate. “I will slay your son, even your firstborn.” Justice lingered but it struck home at last. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Yes, even to the extremity of vengeance upon a whole nation the Lord's mercy to His people endured. For evermore His love shall last Forever sure, forever fast.

Psa 136:11 And brought out Israel from among them, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“And brought out Israel from among them.”** Scattered as the tribes were up and down the country, and apparently held in a grasp which would never be relaxed, the Lord wrought their deliverance, and severed them from their idolatrous task-masters. None of them remained in bondage. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Once the Israelites did not care to go out, but preferred to bear the ills they had rather than risk they knew not what; but the Lord's mercy endured that test also, and ceased not to stir up the nest till the birds were glad to take to their wings. For God does prove Our constant friend; His boundless love shall never end.

Psa 136:12 With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm.”** In the Exodus the great power and glory of Jehovah were seen. He dashed in pieces the enemy with His right hand. He led forth His people in no mean or clandestine manner. Even as was it in the deliverance of each one of us from sin: “according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.” **“For His mercy endures forever.”** - therefore His power is put forth for the rescue of His own. See He lifts His strong right hand, For His mercies steadfast stand.

Psa 136:13 To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“To him which divided the Red sea into parts.”** He made a road across the sea-bottom, causing the divided waters to stand like walls on either side. Men deny miracles; but, granted that there is a God, they become easy of belief. He who causes the waters of the sea ordinarily to remain as one mass can with equal readiness divide them. He who can throw a stone in one direction can with the same force throw it another way. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** and therefore it endures through the sea as well as over the dry land. He will do a new thing to keep His old premise. His way is in the sea, and He will make a way for His people in the same pathless region.

Psa 136:14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“And made Israel to pass through the midst of it.”** He gave the people courage to follow the predestined track through the yawning abyss, which might well have terrified a veteran host. Here is the glory of God set forth, as all His people see it in their own deliverance from sin. By faith we also give up all reliance upon works and trust ourselves to pass by a way which we have not known, even by the way of reliance upon the atoning blood: thus are we effectually sundered from the Egypt of our former estate, and our sins themselves are drowned. The people marched dry shod through the heart of the sea. Hallelujah! **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Mercy cleared the road, mercy cheered the host, mercy led them down, and mercy brought them up again.

Psa 136:15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea.”** Here comes the thunder-clap. Though we hear them, yet the judgments of the Lord were only loud-mouthed mercies speaking confusion to the foe, that the chosen might tremble before him no longer. The chariots were thrown over, the horses were overthrown. The King and his warriors were alike overwhelmed; they were hurled from their chariots as locusts are tossed to and fro in the wind. Broken was the power and conquered was the pride of Egypt. Jehovah had vanquished the enemy. **“For His mercy endures for ever.”** Yes, mercy continued to protect its children, and therefore called in the aid of justice to fulfil the capital sentence on their foes. Evermore His love shall reign; Pharaoh and his host are slain.

Psa 136:16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“To him which led his people through the wilderness.”** He led them **into it**, and therefore **He was pledged to lead them through it**. They were “His people,” and yet they must go into the wilderness, and the wilderness must remain as barren as ever it was; but in the end they must come out of it into the promised land. The Lord by His infinite power and wisdom conducted a whole nation for forty years through a desert land, and their feet did not swell, neither did their garments wax old in all the journey.
- **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Their conduct in the wilderness tested His mercy most severely, but it bore the strain; many a time He forgave them; and though He smote them for their transgressions, yet He waited to be gracious and speedily turned to them in compassion. For His mercy, changing never, Still endureth, sure forever.

Psa 136:17 To Him who struck down great kings, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“To him which smote great kings.”** Within sight of their inheritance Israel had to face powerful enemies. Kings judged to be great because of the armies at their back blocked up their road. He who had subdued the really mighty ruler of Egypt made short work of these petty sovereigns, great though they were in the esteem of neighboring princes.
- **“For His mercy endures forever.”** The Lord who smote Pharaoh at the beginning of the wilderness march, smote Sihon and Og at the close of it. How could these kings hope to succeed when even mercy itself was in arms against them.

Psa 136:18 And slew famous kings, For His mercy endures forever—

- **“And slew famous kings.”** What good was their fame to them? As they opposed God they became infamous rather than famous. Their deaths made the Lord's fame to increase among the nations while their fame ended in disgraceful defeat. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** Kings, He smote despite their fame, For His mercy's still the same.

Psa 136:19 Sihon king of the Amorites, For His mercy endures forever;

- **“Sihon king of the Amorites.”** Let the name be mentioned that the mercy may be the better remembered. Sihon smote Moab, but he could not smite Israel, for the Lord smote him. His fall was speedy and final, and the chosen people were so struck with it that they sung of his overthrow in their national songs. **“For His mercy endures forever.”** His mercy is no respecter of persons, and neither the greatness nor the fame of Sihon could protect him after he had dared to attack Israel. The Lord will not forsake His people because Sihon blusters. Come what may By night or day, Still most sure, His love shall endure!

Psa 136:20 And Og king of Bashan, For His mercy endures forever—

- ***“And Og the king of Bashan.”*** He was of the race of the giants, but he was routed like a pigmy when he entered the lists with Israel's God. The Lord's people were called upon to fight against him, but it was God who won the victory. He had to exchange his 13.5 x 6 foot bedstead of iron for a bed in the dust, for he fell on the battlefield. Glory be to the divine conqueror, ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Giant kings before Him yield, Mercy ever holds the field. He who delivers us out of one trouble will rescue us out of another, and fulfil all the good pleasure of His grace in us.

Psa 136:21 And gave their land as a heritage, For His mercy endures forever;

- ***“And gave their land as a heritage.”*** As Lord of the whole earth He transferred His estate from one tenant to another. The land did not become the property of the Israelites by their own sword and bow, but by a grant from the throne. This was the great end which all along had been aimed at from Egypt to Jordan. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Faithful love endures without end, and secures its own end. Till they reach the promised land Mercy still the same must stand.

Psa 136:22 A heritage to Israel His servant, For His mercy endures forever.

- ***“Even an heritage to Israel his servant.”*** Repetitions are effective in poetry, and the more so if there be some little variation in them, bringing out into fuller light some point which else had not been noticed. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Yes, mercy fights for the land, mercy divides the spoil among its favored ones, and mercy secures each man in his inheritance. Glory be to God the faithful One.

Psa 136:23 Who remembered us in our lowly state, For His mercy endures forever;

- ***“Who remembered us in our lowly estate.”*** Personal mercies awake the sweetest songs “He remembered us.” Our prayer is, “Lord remember me,” and this is our encouragement - He has remembered us. For the Lord even to think of us is a wealth of mercy. We thought ourselves too small and too worthless for His memory to burden itself about us, yet He remembered us. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Yes, this is one of the best proofs of the immutability of His mercy, for if He could have changed towards any, it would certainly have been towards us who have brought ourselves low, kept ourselves low, and prepared ourselves to sink yet lower. For His mercy full and free Lasts to eternity.

Psa 136:24 And rescued us from our enemies, For His mercy endures forever;

- ***“And hath redeemed us from our enemies.”*** Israel's enemies brought the people low; but the Lord intervened, and turned the tables by a great redemption. In our case the redemption which is in Christ Jesus is an eminent reason for giving thanks unto the Lord. Sin is our enemy, and we are redeemed from it by the atoning blood; Satan is our enemy and we are redeemed from him by the Redeemer's power; the world is our enemy, and we are redeemed from it by the Holy Spirit. We are ransomed, let us enjoy our liberty; Christ has wrought our redemption, let us praise His name. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Even to redemption by the death of His Son did divine mercy stretch itself. Even to death upon the tree, Mercy endures faithfully.

Psa 136:25 Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever.

- ***“Who giveth food to all flesh.”*** If we think of heavenly food, by which all saints are supplied, our praises rise to a still greater height; but meanwhile the universal goodness of God in feeding all His creatures is as worthy of praise as His special favors to the elect nation. Because the Lord feeds all life therefore we expect Him to take special care of His own family. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Reaching downward even to beasts and reptiles, it is, indeed, a boundless mercy, which knows no limit because of the meanness of its object. All things living He does feed, His full hand supplies their need; For His mercy shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

Psa 136:26 Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.

- ***“O give thanks unto the God of heaven.”*** The title is full of honor. The Lord is God in the highest realms, and among celestial beings. His throne is set in glory, above all, out of reach of foes, in the place of universal oversight. See herein the greatness of His nature, the depth of His condescension, and the range of His love. Mark the one sole cause of His bounty – ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** He hath done all things from this motive; and because His mercy never ceases, He will continue to multiply deeds of love world without end. Let us with all our powers of heart and tongue give thanks unto the holy name of Jehovah for ever and ever!

SUMMARY:

- The repeated truth for emphasis that it might be implanted deep in our hearts and deep in our minds and never, never, never should we question whether or not God will be merciful to forgive us our sins or our transgressions. His mercy endures forever. His mercy is without limit and His mercy will cover you!

GIVE THANKS – Maranatha Music

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (2X)
And now let the weak say, "I am strong", Let the poor say, "I am rich" Because of what the Lord has done for us (2X)
Give thanks (2X)*

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for

World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Naftali Bennett – Israel; Angela Merkel – Germany; Boris Johnson – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Kim Boo-kyum – South Korea.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL: