

ECC



**UNIT I
ISSUE 1**

**The Songs of
God's People**

Church Times

Joyful Songs Ring Out As the Hebrew People Celebrate Start of a New Temple

JERUSALEM, around 520 BCE—Years after the return of the Hebrew people from exile, the builders have now laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord.

Priests of the temple, dressed in their vestments, blew trumpets. The Levites praised God with cymbals, according to the directions given long ago by King David, the most famous king of Israel.

The people sang responsively, praising God and giving thanks to the Lord. The shouts were loud and joyous as the people celebrated this important event.

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing,” sang the people gathered there.

The people were making a truly joyful noise as they entered the gates of the temple to praise God.

Ever since their return from Babylon, the heads of families have made freewill offerings to rebuild the house of God.

According to our sources, the building fund contained sixty-one thousand darics of gold, five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priestly robes.

The temple was begun in the second



year after the first exiles returned, but because of opposition from the Samaritans, the work stopped for several years. Then, under the reign of King Darius of Persia, the building resumed under the leadership of Zerubbabel and others. The Levites were appointed as overseers.

Today's song-filled celebration is only the beginning, for it will take another five years to finish the building.

Curiously, there were many in the crowd who were weeping. They were mostly older people who remembered the first house of the Lord that was built by

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Continued on page 2

Psalm 100 in the Bible and in The Book of Common Prayer. It is also called Jubilate, which means “rejoice.”

JOYFUL SONGS, Continued from page 1

Solomon, son of King David.

We are told that the first temple was built with fine wood and stone. Much of it was covered with gold. Inside, the Ark of the Covenant rested in great splendor.

Perhaps the people weep also for the Ark of the Covenant, which was lost many years ago.

The sounds from the temple could be heard from far away, and the weeping and joyful shouts could not be distinguished one from the other.

Note: A daric is a gold coin weighing about 4.5 ounces. A mina was used to weigh gold and silver. It was about 1.6 pounds.

Music Was Vital in Hebrew Worship

Music is mentioned early and often in the Bible.

In Genesis, Jubal is called the ancestor of all who play the lyre and the pipe.

Miriam sang and danced at the defeat of the Egyptians after the safe crossing of the Red Sea. David, who sang

for King Saul, was an accomplished musician. He is most likely the author of many of the Psalms and enjoyed playing the lyre to accompany them.

It was probably during the reign of King David—and later with the building of the temple by Solomon—that music became a regular part of Hebrew worship.

The Psalms are songs of praise, thanksgiving, and petition. In temple worship, they followed the offering of sacrifices.

The poetic rhythm of the Psalms suggests that they were sung responsively. Trumpet calls preceded them, and they were no doubt accompanied by stringed instruments and flutes.

Every Generation Sings Songs of Praise

Through the centuries, the Psalms have been the daily songs of the people. They were sung in homes, as men and women went about their daily chores, and as families gathered for meals and celebrations. The songs were also a part of formal worship.

Many of the hymn tunes we sing in church were once a part of the music of people's everyday lives.

Today, people sing songs of praise to

God in similar situations. Often individuals will sing along to music on the radio, a tape, or a compact disc player.

Musicians continue to write songs in praise of God just as David did many centuries ago. Their instruments include guitars and portable keyboards.

Young people gather in churches and at camps to sing new music that has deep meaning for their lives. Sometimes this modern type of music is used in the regular worship of congregations.

First Complete English Bible Produced by Miles Coverdale

Miles Coverdale was born in York, England, in 1488. He became a Catholic priest in 1514 and joined a monastery. But soon he was converted to Protestantism. He became the first person to do a complete translation of the Bible into English.

He used much of the work of William Tyndale, who had completed the New Testament and much of the Old Testament before his death in 1536.

Coverdale's primary interest was not

languages, but he had a fine sense of how to arrange English words and phrases to produce pleasant sounds.

In 1539, Coverdale produced the Great Bible, which was used for reference in churches. From this time forward, people could read the Bible in the English language without fear of persecution.

The Psalms of *The Book of Common Prayer* we use in American churches today are based on Coverdale's translation.

**The Psalms of
*The Book of
Common Prayer*
we use in
American
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are based on
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translation.**

MEMORY CHALLENGE

Venite

*Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our
salvation.*

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the
sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

—*The Book of Common Prayer*,
Morning Prayer II, page 82

Answers:
S, S, A, M, P, L
Psalms

Hymn Words

Directions: What letter do all four words in each group have in common? Write that letter in the blank space.

_____ Disciples, apostle, messenger, salvation

_____ cross, sinners, sing, saints

_____ covenant, David, praise, grace

_____ promise, mercy, remnant, Solomon

_____ Scripture, Spirit, supper, people

_____ beloved, Bethlehem, Bible, faithful,

Now unscramble the letters in the blanks to discover the name of a book in the Bible.

Unit I: LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 1: *Psalm 51:15; Psalm 100:2*

Session 2: *Psalm 117:1; Psalm 119:105*

Session 3: *Psalm 78:1-2 (BCP);
Psalm 78:70*

Session 4: *Psalm 148:13; Psalm 150:6*

Session 5: *Psalm 24:1; Psalm 138:1a*

Session 6: *Psalm 27:1; Psalm 72:1*

Session 7: *Psalm 30:5b; Psalm 46:1;
Psalm 102:7 (BCP)*

Session 8: *Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 15:1;
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Session 9: *Psalm 140:12; Psalm 149:1*



LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 1

“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.”
—*Psalm 51:15 (NRSV)*

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.”
—*Psalm 100:2 (NRSV)*

ECC



UNIT 1
ISSUE 2

Psalms Are
Poetry

Church Times



Young Son Anointed to Be Next King Likes Keeping Sheep and Writing Songs

BETHLEHEM, 1000 BCE—The youngest son of the sheep farmer Jesse has been anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next King of Israel. The boy's name is



David, and he is both a shepherd and a musician.

Some days ago, the prophet Samuel was told by God to fill his horn with oil and go to Jesse in Bethlehem. Upon his arrival, Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to purify themselves and come to the sacrifice.

Samuel reported, "As I looked at Jesse's sons, I believed any of them could be called by God. They were all strong, handsome men who appeared capable of such a challenge.

"But I heard God saying, 'Do not look on his outward appearance or his height, but at his heart.'

"As each one passed by, I said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' As the seven came by without being chosen, they all looked disappointed. I was getting discouraged as I told Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.'

"Jesse then told me about David, who was out keeping the sheep. When he came, I heard the Lord say, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.'"

David Describes His Life

David shared his own feelings about the event: "I was really surprised. I had no idea that all this was happening. When my father's servant came for me, I was afraid something had happened to my father or one of my brothers. Now that it is over, I can go back to my sheep."

We asked David to tell us about life as a shepherd. "I really like it," he said. "It's good to be among the sheep. You get to know them. They all have different personalities. I give them names that suit them.

"Sometimes they wander off, and I have

Continued on page 2

Psalms Contain Parallels and Metaphors

The Psalms are poetry. Although they do not rhyme, they have other qualities we associate with poetic expression.

A frequent characteristic of psalms is *parallelism*. A line or thought will be followed by another that is closely related (or parallel) to it. Often, the second part of a line will reflect the idea of the first. In some psalms, an idea is presented and then expanded upon.

The psalms use *metaphors*, which make two different terms equal. Examples: God

is a shepherd, or God is a rock. In metaphors, the Bible's psalms offer word pictures to illustrate God's work of creating all that is, God's love for all creatures, and the history of God's people.

One kind of poetic structure in The Psalms and other Hebrew poetry is the *chiasm* (pronounced KYE-as'm), in which the end of a thought matches the beginning, with special emphasis on the words in the middle.

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MEMORY CHALLENGE

Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

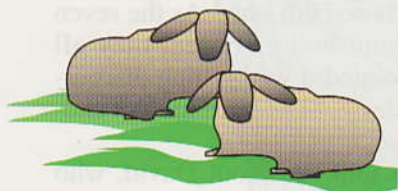
*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.*

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the
sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
—*The Book of Common Prayer,*
Morning Prayer II, page 82

to go find them. Several times I have had to fight off a lion or a bear that threatens one of the weaker ones or the lambs.”

We have many translations of Psalm 23, which is surely the best-known psalm. Look it up in a King James Version of the Bible, then in the Revised (or New Revised) Standard Version. Compare these translations with the one in The Psalter of The Book of Common Prayer. Which one do you like most?



“What I like most about being a shepherd is getting to stay outdoors. I like the sky and the sun and the pastures. I thank God for the chance to be a part of this creation. I sing songs I have written to thank God for this wonderful world.”

David shared one of his songs with us:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside still waters.
 He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
 for his Name's sake.
 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
 for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
 thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalms Used in Hebrew Worship

The Book of Psalms contains 150 songs used in the worship of ancient Israel. David is considered to be the author of a number of them.

The collected psalms are primarily connected with the Second Temple. They became known as the hymnal of Israel. Some of the songs offer joyful praise and thanksgiving to God. Others express sadness and despair.

Many of the psalms use the pronoun “I.” An example is *Psalm 5:2*: “I make my prayer to you.” But this is not just the voice of a single person, for the worshipping Hebrews thought of themselves as one people with one voice. The “I” is really “we.”

The Psalms have always been included in the music and prayer of whole communities of worshipers, both in ancient Israel and in the Church.

Varied Patterns of Speaking and Singing Are Used in Sharing the Bible’s Psalms

The Book of Common Prayer suggests several ways to share The Psalms in worship. How is it done in your congregation?

Unison. Everyone says all the words together at the same time.

Antiphonal. The congregation is divided into two groups, and they alternate in reading either whole verses or half-verses. Verses are divided into halves by an asterisk (*).

Reader and people. A minister or other reader speaks a verse or half-verse, and the people respond with another verse or half-verse.

Choir alone. Only members of the choir sing an entire psalm.

Choir and people. The choir or a solo voice will sing the verses, and the congregation responds with a refrain.

In Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, the psalm is followed by the words, “Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.”

In the Eucharist, the psalm is said or sung between the reading of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament.

Skeleton Psalm

Complete the following psalm, remembering to express similar thoughts in both halves of each verse.

Oh, God, you are _____;
your love extends from age to age.

We honor you with _____ voices;
we _____ you with joyful hearts.

The nations rejoice because of your _____;
all the _____ your
everlasting love.

Every day, you send blessings to _____;
you provide us with _____.

Each morning, we will _____ you;
As the sun rises, _____.

In the _____, we will offer our
_____;
as the moon _____ you.
our hearts will _____.

Unit I: LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 1: *Psalm 51:15; Psalm 100:2*

Session 2: *Psalm 117:1; Psalm 119:105*

Session 3: *Psalm 78:1-2 (BCP);
Psalm 78:70*

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Session 7: *Psalm 30:5b; Psalm 46:1;
Psalm 102:7 (BCP)*

Session 8: *Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 15:1;
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Session 9: *Psalm 140:12; Psalm 149:1*



LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 2

“Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!”
—*Psalm 117:1 (NRSV)*

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
—*Psalm 119:105 (NRSV)*

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**UNIT I
ISSUE 3**

Types of Psalms

Church Times

The Psalms Are Important In Hebrew Life and Worship

The people of God have gathered once again in Jerusalem for the Covenant

Renewal Festival. Held in the autumn as part of the Hebrew New Year Observance, this celebration has been an annual event since King Solomon completed the temple.

Throughout the festival, the people will remember how God brought them out of slavery in the land of Egypt and remained with them in the desert, providing food and water until they entered their new land. The adventures of King David will also be told with great pride along with other stories of the

Hebrew people.

This festival assures the people that God's blessings are upon those who keep the Covenant. During this time, the people will also offer up praise in their worship of God.

Praise is a part of all Hebrew worship, especially on the sabbath (the seventh

day of each week) and during celebrations, such as the two most important events of Passover and the Day of Atonement.

At Passover, the people remember the night in Egypt when the angel of death "passed over" their homes and God led them out of bondage. The Day of Atonement is marked by fasting, prayer, and praise for God's goodness and forgiveness of sins.

Closely linked to praise are offerings of Thanksgiving. We asked a young woman to tell us about a festival of thanksgiving call Succoth, a time when Jewish farmers joyfully give thanks for an abundant harvest.

"My father and brothers have built a booth where we will live for the next seven days. The booth is decorated with branches of trees, flowers, and fruits. We will eat our meals and sleep in the booths."

She added, "We sleep and eat in the booths because our ancestors did this during the forty years they wandered in the wilderness."

The Psalms help us continue the old traditions of worshipping God by remembering our history, and coming before God's presence with praise and thanksgiving.



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Musical Instruments in Israel

Unfortunately, we do not know how the instruments and singing of the ancient Hebrews really sounded. As in other cultures, their music would have undergone many changes through the centuries.

From the Bible, we know of various instruments used in Hebrew worship. *Psalm 150*, for example, the following are mentioned: trumpet; lute; harp; tambourine; pipe; and cymbals.

The three stringed instruments most frequently named are:

Harp. Probably a lyre much smaller than harps we see today.

Lyre. A small eight- or ten-stringed instrument.

Psaltery. Similar to a lyre but having a sound box of some kind attached.

Wind instruments were also available:

Pipe. A hollowed piece of wood, or bone. A reed may have been used.

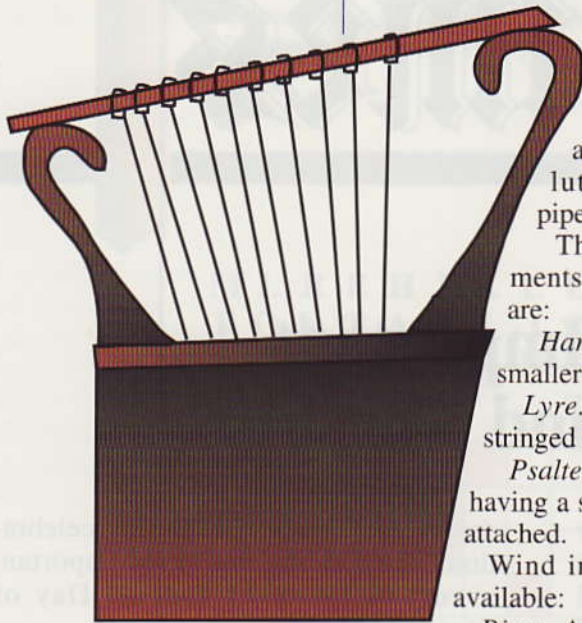
Trumpet and horn. Made from animal horns. A ram's horn was used for a shofar, which was sounded on special occasions.

Percussion instruments included:

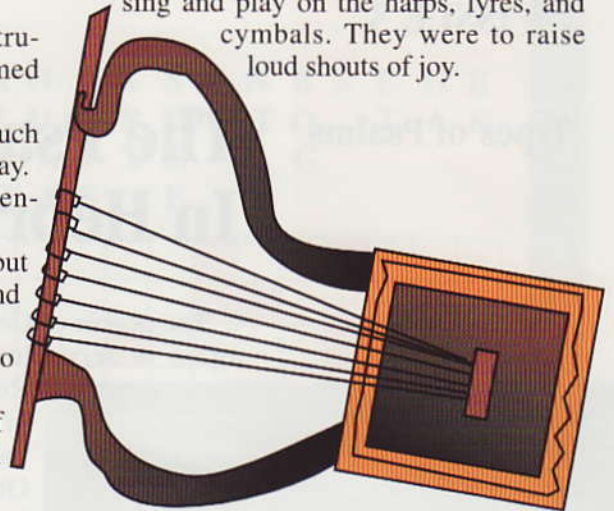
Cymbals. Made loud, crashing sounds.

Tambourines. Miriam, the sister of Moses, played her tambourine as she danced and sang in joyous celebration of the Israelites' escape from the Egyptian army.

Music was a very significant part of temple worship. David organized choirs by appointing the relatives of the Levites to sing and play on the harps, lyres, and cymbals. They were to raise loud shouts of joy.



Pictured above:
A kinnor, the harp
which David
played.
Right: A seven-
stringed lyre.

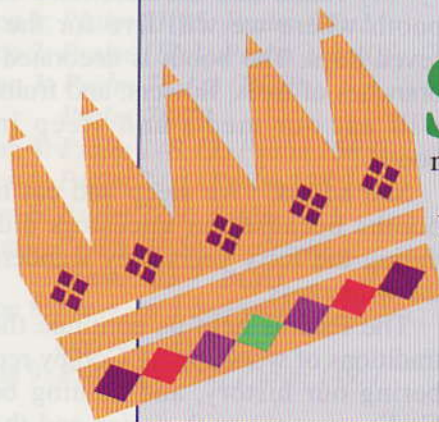


Royal Psalms Used at Coronations Now Used to Describe Mission of Jesus

Several psalms offer prayers for a reigning king and were probably written for the coronations of kings. These psalms show Israel's belief that the king was anointed or chosen by God and acted as God's agent in all matters.

Psalms composed for this purpose ask God's blessing on the king—to bring prosperity, peace, and justice among the nations.

Psalm 45 seems to have been written for a royal wedding, describing the handsome king and beautiful princess in great detail.



The Psalms Include Laments

The psalms we know as laments have a very different form from the others. Each has five components:

1. *Invocation*. This is a cry to God.
2. *Complaint*. The poet expresses the community's distress over a crisis, such as famine or enemies. Or an individual may complain about sickness or persecution.

3. *Confession of Trust*. Even though the situation seems bad, the people still trust the faithfulness of God.

4. *Petition*. The psalmist appeals to God to change the situation.

5. *Thanksgiving*. Finally, thanks are offered for all the blessings from God, followed by words of assurance that God will answer this prayer.

Did You Know...

The Book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible. *Psalm 119* is the longest chapter in the Bible.

Psalm 119 is a kind of acrostic poem. It consists of twenty-two divisions. The divisions are headed by the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, in order. (All the verses within each of divisions begin with the same letter.) For example, *verses 1-8* are the first division. They all begin with *aleph*, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In the next division, *verses 9-16* begin with *beth*, the second letter.

MEMORY CHALLENGE

Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

*For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.*

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the
sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

—*The Book of Common Prayer*,
Morning Prayer II, page 82

Answer: Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

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UNIT I
ISSUE 4

The Suffering
of Job

Church Times



Job's Friends Bring Comfort After His World Collapses

LAND OF UZ—Recently Job, one of the most righteous men in the community who lived according to the laws of God, suffered severe losses. He had been a prosperous farmer with a number of children; he lost it all.

"He experienced great tragedy," according to one of his neighbors. "His children died, and his wealth was taken away. Then he became very sick with a skin disease.

"We were surprised that he remained faithful to God," she added. Several people heard him asking to confront God. He wanted to find out why such things would happen to someone who had been so faithful. People with that kind of faith were supposed to be rewarded for their devotion.

"His wife wasn't much help," the neighbor continued. Then three friends from lands east of Israel came to see Job. They were horrified at his condition, and for seven days just sat near Job in silence to comfort him.

The neighbor said, "His friends kept looking for reasons to explain Job's suffering. Surely Job must have sinned." She sighed. "Job may not have intended to sin, but he should have repented so he could receive forgiveness from God."



Job's friends suggested all manner of things that he may have done to bring on his troubles. "All I heard Job say," said his neighbor," was that he had always done right by God."

The last time the neighbor saw Job, he had disappeared in a whirlwind. He seemed to be a changed man when the winds died down.

Postscript: We learned that Job claims to have heard God in the whirlwind. After that experience, Job recognized the power and wisdom of God, even though he found no answers for his situation. Later, Job's life was restored and he prospered once again.

Job's Words Provide Comfort To Those Who Suffer Today

In the service for The Burial of the Dead in *The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 491, several anthems of comfort are suggested to open the service. The second comes from the Book of Job, chapter 19, verses 25 through 27:



As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.

Job said these words to challenge his friends and assert his innocence. He sought a Redeemer who would champion his cause. Christians believe that Christ came to be the Redeemer for all people.

Poetry in Book of Job Rich in Images

The images in the Book of Job, especially those in God's answer to Job, are vivid and descriptive. Verses in chapters 38 and 39 bring strong pictures to mind:

"... who shut in the sea with doors. . ." (38:8)

"Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail. . ." (38:22)

"Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain,
and a way for the thunderbolt. . ." (38:25)

"Do you make the horse leap like the locust?
Its majestic snorting is terrible." (39:20)



Bible Includes 'Wisdom Literature'

A group of the Bible's books are called Wisdom Literature. They include *Job*, *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes*, and *The Song of Solomon*.

These books do not focus mainly on the story of God's people in history. Rather, they offer a framework of advice for living.

Job is the story of a man who has everything and then loses it all. His struggles to understand what has happened to him leading him to confront God. (See the story of Job above.)

Proverbs is a book of advice on everyday living. Tradition holds that the proverbs came from King Solomon, to whom God granted the gift of wisdom.

Ecclesiastes seems to conclude that life is without meaning. One of its famous passages declares that there is "a time for everything under the sun."

The Song of Solomon is also known as The Song of Songs. It is composed of love songs—a dialogue between a young man and his bride.

Wisdom Literature offers a framework of advice for living.

MEMORY CHALLENGE

Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
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*In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
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The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the
sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
—*The Book of Common Prayer*,
Morning Prayer II, page 82

Answer:
THE LORD HAS HEARD MY SUPPLICATION;
THE LORD ACCEPTS MY PRAYER.



Job's Lament

Directions: Circle every third letter. Then print the circled letters (in order) in the blanks below.

T M O H C F E H K L Q T O W Z R B E D H A H J L A R I S
 Q C H P A E Z Q A Y M R O S D L N M J H Y X A S W M U C
 S P N Q P B N L V P I H K C B Y A G X T S Y I W R O W S
 N C B T V V H U Z E M A L G T O N F R X A D F X A C T C
 G P C O I E H F P B U T P J S D Z M Y G Y E V P V E R D
 D A O S Y R T E A L R

 _____;

Unit I: LEARNING SCRIPTURE

- Session 1: *Psalm 51:15; Psalm 100:2*
- Session 2: *Psalm 117:1; Psalm 119:105*
- Session 3: *Psalm 78:1-2 (BCP);
Psalm 78:70*
- Session 4: *Psalm 148:13; Psalm 150:6***
- Session 5: *Psalm 24:1; Psalm 138:1a*
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Psalm 102:7 (BCP)*
- Session 8: *Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 15:1;
Ecclesiastes 3:1*
- Session 9: *Psalm 140:12; Psalm 149:1*



LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 4

“Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.” —*Psalm 148:13 (NRSV)*

“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!”
—*Psalm 150:6 (NRSV)*

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**UNIT I
ISSUE 5**

Proverbs

Church Times



Finding Help From Parents Is Cause for Thanksgiving

It was the first day of school for many young Hebrews in villages and towns throughout Israel. We spoke with Matthias who comes to this school from a small

We've been best friends ever since I can remember.

A month ago I found out that Daniel's parents had decided not to send him to school. His father has many sheep, and they need Daniel to tend them.

I moped around for a few days before my parents said they wanted to talk to me. I asked them fearfully if I could be a shepherd with Daniel.

They didn't laugh or say that I was being silly. My mother looked at me kindly, and my father gave me a patient smile. My mother suggested we invite the boys who were going to the new school and their families to our home for a meal. My father said I should start including the people who are going away to

school in the games Daniel and I often play.

Since then, I've made several new friends, including one who is sharing a room with me. I'm still scared, but I don't feel as hopeless as before. I was surprised my parents could be so understanding and so wise.

Our Hebrews community has festivals of thanksgiving to show their appreciation to God. At the next one, I want to thank God for my mother and father.



community to the north. Here is Matthias' story in his own words:

Recently I had a big problem, and I didn't know what to do. All year I have been getting ready to change to a new school.

Part of me was ready to go to this school, and part of me wanted to stay with my younger brothers. I was most afraid of leaving home. The main thing that's kept me from going crazy is knowing that my best friend Daniel would be going with me.

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Capable Woman Described As Strong, Dignified, and Wise



At the end of the Book of Proverbs in *chapter 31* is a description of a “capable wife.” In the ancient world, women had full responsibility for maintaining the household. Life was filled with endless routine, but a woman needed to know many things, including the use of herbs, weaving and dying, shopping, and keeping the pantry filled. Girls began training for this role at an early age.



Women were very important to their families. The ancient world viewed a woman who managed a household well as wise. She also had dignity and authority. The writer of Proverbs says that a capable woman is “far more precious than jewels.”

Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her;
“Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”

Proverbs 31:28-29

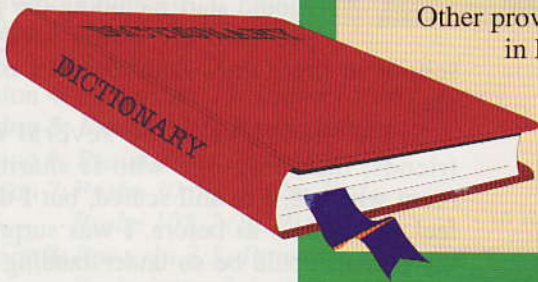


Definition: Proverb

prov•erb (prôv'ürb) n. A colorful saying, usually short, offering wisdom or keen observation. Often collected in biblical Wisdom literature, especially in the book of Proverbs. Some are brief, such as “...fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (1:7)

Other proverbs offer full discussions, such as the description of a capable wife in Proverbs 31. These sayings capture experiences of a group of people to help future generations.

Proverbs are fresh, simple, and direct. They are fun to read and easy to remember.



Helpful Proverbs

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, . . .

*Fools think their own way is right,
but the wise listen to advice.*

*A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

A friend loves at all times, . . .

MEMORY CHALLENGE

Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.

*The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.*

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the
sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
—*The Book of Common Prayer,*
Morning Prayer II, page 82

We Give Thanks

Directions: From the letters in the words in the sentence below, make as many words as possible—naming things for which you would give thanks. Include the following categories: people, events, relationships, objects, and abilities. Examples might be: parents, pets, friends.

Praise God's many acts of love, faithfulness, presence, and protection.



Unit I: LEARNING SCRIPTURE

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Psalm 102:7 (BCP)*

Session 8: *Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 15:1;
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Session 9: *Psalm 140:12; Psalm 149:1*



LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 5

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; . . .” —*Psalm 24:1 (NRSV)*

“I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; . . .”
—*Psalm 138:1a (NRSV)*

ECC



**UNIT I
ISSUE 6**

Ecclesiastes

Church Times

King Solomon Makes Wise Decision, Mother Leaves with Her Own Baby

JERUSALEM, Around 950 BCE— Throughout the land, King Solomon is known as a wise leader. Just today, he faced a test that no doubt presented him with the most difficult decision he has ever had to make.

Two women appeared before the king. Each one claimed to be the mother of the same baby boy.

Both women said they gave birth to a male child, three days apart, in the same house. Some time later, one child died of mysterious causes. Each of the women said that the living child belonged to her.

The women argued before the king, saying, "The living son is mine, and the dead son is yours." The other shouted back, "No, the dead son is yours, and the living son is mine."

Surely this was enough to try the patience of any wise king. Solomon saw that the argument was getting nowhere. He then made a bold move.

The king called for a sword to be

brought to him. When the sword was brought, the king said, "Divide the living boy in two; then give half to the one and half to the other."



The true mother of the boy would not let her son be killed and so cried to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living boy; certainly do not kill him!"

Solomon then knew that she was the mother. He ordered the baby to be given to her.

When the news of this event reached the people of Israel, they were in awe of the wisdom of their king and believed that God was with him.

A source close to the palace told us that indeed the king had received the gift of wisdom from God. It is said that the Lord came to Solomon in a dream. The king asked God for an understanding mind to govern the people, and the ability to discern between good and evil.

What happened today is evidence that the Lord has granted the king's request.

Who Is King Solomon?

Solomon was the son of David and Bathsheba, and succeeded David as king of Israel. Apparently he was a good administrator and politician who brought together different factions and opened trade and relations with other countries. According to the Bible, he had 700 wives, many of whom he married for political reasons.

In Jerusalem, he built an elaborate palace and a temple. These activities brought wealth and respect to the nation of Israel. Old Testament writers, however, do

not find all of Solomon's activities to be praiseworthy.

Solomon is mostly known for his wisdom that "surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone else" (*I Kings 4:30a-31b*).

According to tradition, he is attributed with writing parts of *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes*, the *Song of Solomon*, and several psalms. Scholars who study the use of language and content, however, have shown that this is not probable.

Readings from Ecclesiastes Part of Feast of Sukkoth

The Book of Ecclesiastes has a strong connection to the Jewish festival of Sukkoth, also known as the Festival of Tabernacles. This time of thanksgiving commemorates the time Hebrews lived in the wilderness before entering Canaan. It was a celebration of the final harvest of the agricultural year (see page 1 of Unit I, Issue 3).

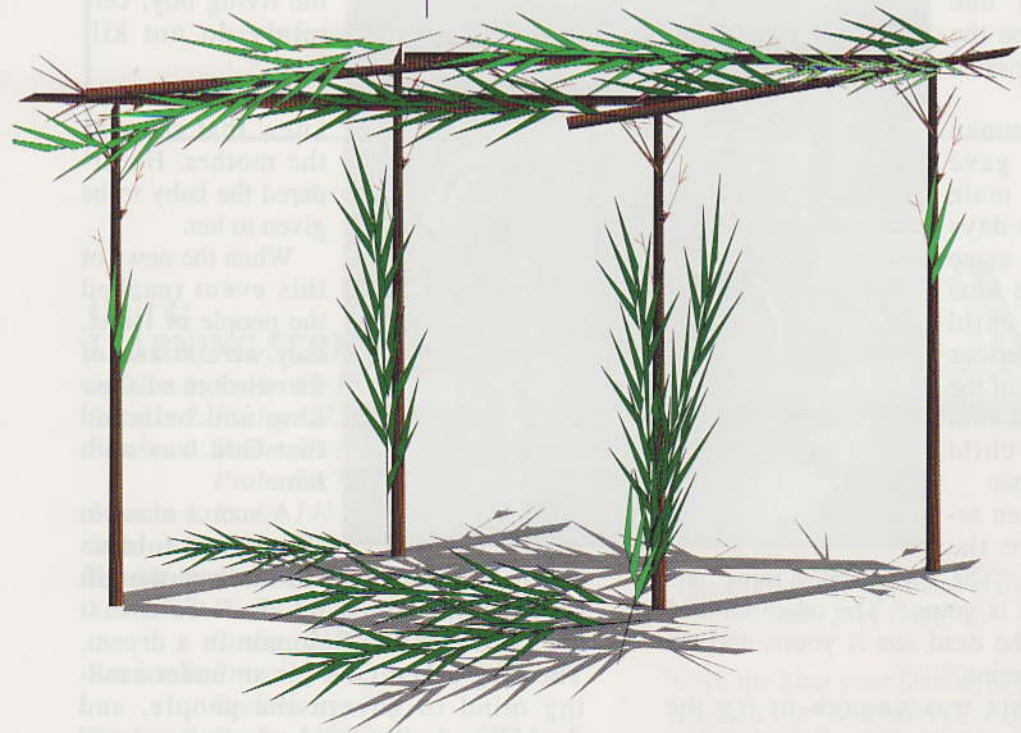
Readings from *Ecclesiastes* are a part of the festival because the Teacher encourages people to enjoy life and its pleasures, as long as they are aware of the certainty of death. The celebration of Sukkoth was perhaps the most joyous time of the year for Hebrew people

and generally included a trip to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Families would travel to Jerusalem where they would build huts, similar to shelters that farmers lived in during the annual grape and olive harvests. Readings from Ecclesiastes are usually read during the middle part of the festival. At first, it may seem strange to read discouraging words during a festival of thanksgiving and joy.

The Teacher makes it clear that worldly possessions are only temporary. Similarly, Sukkoth sends the message that the material possessions in our houses are not real security in a changing world.

During the festival the people are reminded that they must continue as best they can with the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament) as their guide. Ecclesiastes ends on a similar note in *12:13*: "Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone."



Teacher Talks about Vanity In Book of Ecclesiastes

At the opening of the Book of Ecclesiastes, the Teacher who is identified as the author, says, "Vanity of vanities, . . . All is vanity" (1:2).

To understand Old Testament writers, sometimes it is necessary to find out how they use certain words. The Teacher uses the word "vanity" thirty-eight times in the Book of Ecclesiastes.

A modern dictionary defines the word as being vain, with excessive pride in appear-

ances, gifts, and achievements. Another definition of vanity is something that is worthless, having no real value.

The word used by the Teacher comes from the Hebrew word, hebol, meaning vapor or breath—something that appears for an instant that cannot be grasped, and disappears. From the Teacher's perspective, many things that we think are important—work, pleasure, even life itself—are all vanity, vanishing with time.

MEMORY CHALLENGE

Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

***Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.***

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the
sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

—*The Book of Common Prayer,*
Morning Prayer II, page 82

*Answer: For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.*

Wisdom

Chart:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ▲ | ▲ | ● | □ | ◆ |
| † | A | I | D | H |
| ♥ | R | E | N | T |
| ★ | F | S | Y | V |
| ☼ | M | U | O | G |

Directions: Refer to the chart above to determine which letter should be written in each blank below.

★▲ ☼□ ♥▲ ♥● ★◆ ♥● ♥▲ ★□ ♥◆ †◆ †● ♥□ ☼◆
 ♥◆ †◆ ♥● ♥▲ ♥● †● ★● †▲
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 †◆ ♥● †▲ ★◆ ♥● ♥□

Unit I: LEARNING SCRIPTURE

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Psalm 102:7 (BCP)*
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Ecclesiastes 3:1*
- Session 9: *Psalm 140:12; Psalm 149:1*



LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 6

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?”
—*Psalm 27:1 (NRSV)*

“Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to
a king’s son.” —*Psalm 72:1 (NRSV)*



UNIT I
ISSUE 7

Righteous
Tobit

Church Times



Tobit, Beloved Ninevah Citizen, Dies After Fortunes Restored

Nineveh, 200 BCE—Today a beloved citizen of Ninevah died at the age of 112 years. At his bedside was his wife, Anna and his son, Tobias and daughter-in-law Sarah. The Assyrians took Tobit into captivity from his home village of Thisbe during the time of King Shalmaneser.

Tobit has lived a long and faithful life in the midst of adversity. After being captured, he continued to help his fellow captives by giving them food and clothing. He even went so far as to bury those who had been executed by the king's men, which was against the law. At age 62, he lost his eyesight from fresh sparrow droppings while sleeping out in the open.

When all their financial resources were exhausted, Tobit sent his son Tobias to search out an old friend in Media who had once borrowed money.

Tobias had a very eventful journey and was able to secure the funds owed to his father. He reports being accompanied on the journey by Raphael. Raphael has been identified as one of the seven angels that stand ready before the glory of the Lord.

On this journey, Tobias, with Raphael's help, met and married Sarah, the daughter of Raguel and Edna of Media. Sarah had been married seven times; however, all of her husbands died on the wedding night. Tobias escaped this fate through divine intervention. Tobias also returned home with a balm that cured Tobit's eyesight.

Tobit is said to have given thanks to God upon Tobias' return from this fantastic journey. This message of thanksgiving was also Tobit's final prayer.



Books of Apocrypha Filled With Adventure, Poetry, Lore

The word “apocrypha” originally meant “things that are hidden.”

The Apocrypha is made up of fifteen books from the second and first centuries BCE that were not included in Hebrew scripture. This section of the Bible is sometimes not a part of Bibles used by Protestants, but readings are included in the lectionary for the Episcopal Church.

In addition to the adventures of Tobit and his family, exciting tales are included in this section of the Bible. For example, *Judith* tells the story of a courageous woman who saved her people by cutting off the head of their enemy as he lay in a drunken stupor.

Susanna is about the trial of a virtuous woman wrongly accused of adultery by jealous elders she had rejected. In *Bel and the Dragon*, Daniel kills a dragon by feeding it special cakes.

Other books, such as the Maccabees, tell the history of the Hebrew people, while others contain picturesque poetry and proverbs.

The word “apocrypha” originally meant “things that are hidden.” Some believe the books of the Apocrypha were hidden because they didn’t belong in the Bible, while others believe the mysterious nature of the books caused them to be hidden.



Raphael Sent by God

In the story in the Book of Tobit, God answers the prayers of Tobit and Sarah by sending an angel to heal them. However, the angel Raphael did not look like most angels depicted in stained glass or classical art.

When Tobias first sees Raphael, he calls him a young man. Raphael tells Tobias that he is an Israelite who came to Nineveh to work. He also claims to be a distant relative of Tobit.

Finally at the end of the story, Raphael reveals himself to Tobit and Tobias. He said, “I was sent to test you. And at the same time God sent me to heal you and Sarah. . . I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand ready and enter before the glory of the Lord.” After saying this, he ascended “to him who sent me.”

The Language of Tobit

The *Book of Tobit* comes to us from several different sources. The actual author was a Jew who originally wrote in Hebrew or Aramaic, but documents in Greek and Latin were also used in the translation.

At the end of the story, Tobit praises God. The word “Hallelujah” is best translated as “Praise the Lord!” The Greek and Latin version of Hallelujah is Alleluia.

Hebrew: הללו יה

Greek: αλληλυσια

Latin: ALLELVIA

MEMORY CHALLENGE

Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,
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In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

*For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and
the sheep of his hand.*

*Oh, that today you would hearken to his
voice!*

—*The Book of Common Prayer,
Morning Prayer II, page 82*



Matching Phrases

Draw a line from each phrase (half-verse) on the left to its corresponding half-verse on the right. To check your work, turn to *Tobit 13* in the Apocrypha.

| | |
|---|--|
| Blessed be God who lives forever | for he has scattered you among them |
| Acknowledge the Lord, for he is good | because his kingdom lasts throughout all ages |
| Acknowledge him before the nations, O children of Israel | and the blessed will bless the holy name forever and ever |
| Bless the Lord of righteousness | For Jerusalem will be built as his house for all ages |
| He will afflict you for your iniquities | but he will again show mercy on all of you |
| My soul blesses the Lord, the great King! | and bless the King of the ages |
| He will gather you from all the nations | acknowledge him at the top of your voice |
| Blessed be the God of Israel! | among whom you have been scattered |
| So now see what he has done for you | and exalt the King of the ages |

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 Ecclesiastes 3:1*
 Session 9: *Psalm 140:12; Psalm 149:1*



LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 7

- “Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”
 —*Psalm 30:5b (NRSV)*
- “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
 —*Psalm 46:1 (NRSV)*
- “I lie awake and groan; I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top.”
 —*Psalm 102:7 (BCP)*



**UNIT I
ISSUE 8**

The Maccabees

Church Times



Maccabees Defy King's Orders To Offer Sacrifices to Zeus

Jerusalem, 167 BCE— Mattathias, head of the Maccabees family, today led a rebellion against Antiochus IV Epiphanes, king of Syria and ruler over Judah.

Several weeks ago, the king had decreed that sacrifices to Greek gods be offered in every Judean city and village. In response to his orders, a pagan altar was built on the Temple altar at Jerusalem to honor Zeus.

An anonymous source said that the revolt actually began in the village of Modein, where an old priest named Mattathias lived with his five sons. The uprising began when a Jewish man approached the pagan altar in Modein to offer a sacrifice.

Mattathias, in an act of anger, killed the man and the royal official who presided over the altar. Mattathias and his sons, John Gaddi, Simon Thassi, Judas Maccabeus, Eleazar Avaran, and Jonathan Apphus, were forced to flee to the nearby hills.

Shepherds in the region have reported that others have joined the Maccabees to fight against King Antiochus. They also say that Mattathias, who was already old



and feeble, has died.

The leader of military operations will probably fall to Judas Maccabeus, whose name means hammer.

In an earlier interview before the family fled the region, Judas said that they plan a full-scale war to rid the country of the pagan altars. He realized that the smaller Hebrew armies are no match against the powerful Syrian forces, but with God's help he believes they will prevail.

Judas said, "Let us restore the ruins of our people, and fight for our people and the sanctuary."

Maccabees' Victory Remembered During Hanukkah Celebration

Hanukkah, or the Feast of Dedication, began in 164 BCE with the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. Each year in December, Jewish people throughout the world remember this event.

The celebration of Hanukkah is based on the following story found in the Talmud, ancient writings of the Jewish faith.

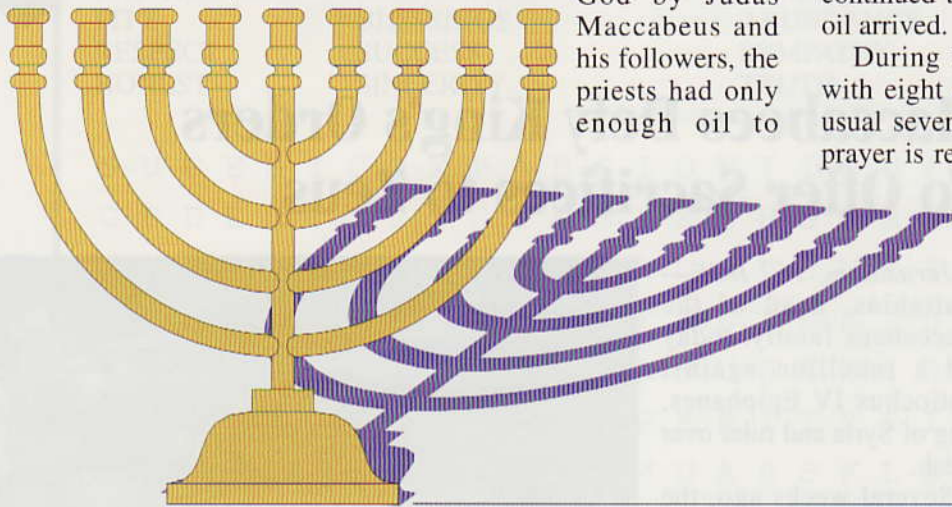
On the day the temple was reclaimed for God by Judas Maccabeus and his followers, the priests had only enough oil to

keep the lamp lighted for one day. It was important to keep the lamp burning to signify the presence of God.

The priests realized that it would take at least a week for new oil to arrive. At the same time, they wanted to put God's presence back in the sanctuary of the Temple as soon as possible.

When they lit the lamp, they expected the oil to burn quickly. However, the lamp continued to burn for eight days until new oil arrived.

During Hanukkah, a special menorah with eight candles is used in place of the usual seven-candle menorah. Each night a prayer is read and a new candle lit. At the end of eight days, all of the candles burn brightly.



The World of the Maccabees

For many years the people of Judah had accepted the rule of other nations as God's plan for them. The decision of King Antiochus IV Epiphanes of Syria to suppress Judaism ended the passive acceptance of outside rulers.

I Maccabees begins with the death of Alexander the Great who had spread Greek rule through much of the civilized world. His death resulted in the Syrians rising to power in the region.

Many Jewish people had been happy under Greek rule, especially those in the upper classes and many Temple priests. It was difficult, sometimes, to adapt to a foreign culture while remaining faithful to the teachings of the Torah.

After taking control of Jerusalem, Judas,

leader of the Maccabees, began to plan for the future. *I Maccabees* notes that Judas had "heard of the fame of the Romans, that they were very strong and were well-disposed toward all who made an alliance with them" (ch. 8).

A hundred years later, family feuds over power led to the downfall of Judah. Rome finally intervened in 63 BCE when Pompey's legions captured Jerusalem. A descendant was left to rule in Jerusalem, no longer as king but as high priest.

The Maccabean family came to an end with the execution of Antigonus II. The future of the country was left with Rome and with Herod. This was the political scene when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

King Destroys Family for Disobedience

Seven brothers and their mother were recently killed by King Antiochus for refusing to eat the flesh of swine. One of them said, "What do you intend to ask and learn from us? For we are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors."

The king was furious. He ordered his men to torture the person who spoke these words in a horrible fashion. Still the brothers and their mother stood strong, encouraging each other to die nobly, saying, "The Lord God is watching over us and in truth has compassion on us."

One by one, the king killed the brothers. Before he died, the youngest said, "But you, who have contrived all sorts of evil against the Hebrews, will certainly not escape the hands of God." Last of all, the mother died. (See *II Maccabees 7* and *IV Maccabees 8-12* for more details.)

MEMORY CHALLENGE

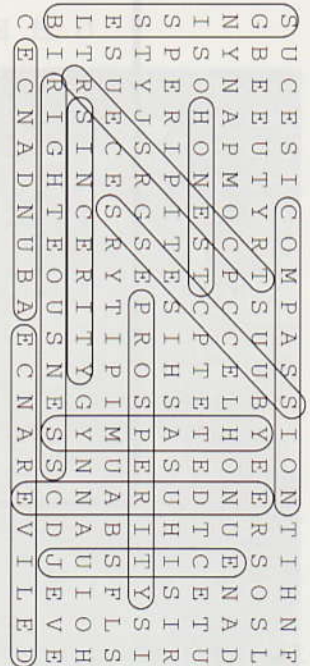
Venite

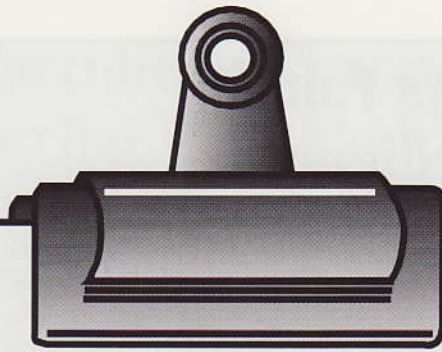
Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving*
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.*

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,*
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,*
and his hands have molded the dry land.*

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep
of his hand.*
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!*

—The Book of Common Prayer,
Morning Prayer II, page 82





Godly Leader

Directions: Find the following qualities of a king or a nation in the puzzle below.

JUSTICE
ENDURANCE
PITY
RESPECT
HONEST

RIGHTEOUSNESS
DELIVERANCE
BLESSINGS
SUCCESS
SINCERITY

PROSPERITY
COMPASSION
ABUNDANCE
SYMPATHY
TRUTH

S U C E S I C O M P A S S I O N T I H N F
 G B E E U T Y R T S U U B Y E E R S O S L
 N Y N A P M O C P C C E L H O N U E N A D
 I S O H O N E S T C P T E T E D T C E T U
 S P E R I P I T E S I H S A S U H I S I R
 S T Y J S R G S E P R O S P E R I T Y S I
 E S U E C E S R Y T I P I M U A B S F L S
 L T R S I N C E R I T Y G Y N N A U I O H
 B I R I G H T E O U S N E S S C D J E V E
 C E C N A D N U B A E C N A R E V I L E D



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Psalm 102:7 (BCP)*
**Session 8: *Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 15:1;
Ecclesiastes 3:1***
 Session 9: *Psalm 140:12; Psalm 149:1*

LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 8

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.” —*Proverbs 3:5* (NRSV)

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
—*Proverbs 15:1* (NRSV)

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: . . .” —*Ecclesiastes 3:1* (NRSV)

ECC



UNIT I
ISSUE 9

For All the
Saints

Church Times

All Saints' Day Honors People of Faith in Every Generation of Church History

Who are the saints? What is the communion of saints? What is the difference between saints with a small "s" and Saints with a capital "S"?

Every year, on November 1, the Church celebrates the Feast of All Saints. It is a time to remember all who have died and to rejoice in the lives of those who showed others the way to Christ by their own lives.

The Church is blessed with people—men, women, and children—who have mirrored what it means to follow Jesus.

The Bible shares the stories of the Hebrew people who pointed the way toward the coming of the Messiah. The New Testament saints who actually lived with Jesus and heard his teachings have given us a glimpse of God's great love for us.

Throughout the centuries, others have caught the vision of what Christ can mean to the whole world. Some have died because of their beliefs.

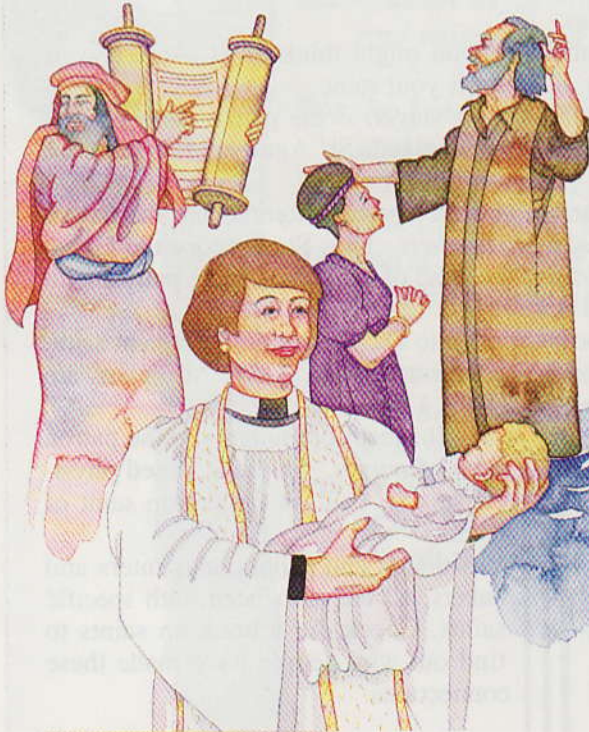
It is through the stories in Scripture and the stories of people we meet each day that we discover answers to our questions.

Who are the saints? They were and are human beings just like all of us. They are found in the Bible, in the long history of the Church and the world, and in churches and communities everywhere.

What is the communion of saints? It is the whole family of God, both living and dead. We are bound together in Jesus Christ. In both life and death, we are with him in the communion of saints. In celebrating the Sacraments, in our common prayer, and in our daily praise of God, we are assured of our place in this communion.

Why are there saints with a "S" and saints with "s"? We are all saints with a small "s". Simply by being baptized into God's family, we become people of God and are called Christians.

Saints with a capital "S" are people who have shown others the way to Jesus Christ in special or outstanding ways. In the Episcopal Church, we celebrate the saints named in the New Testament—the Apostles, Mary and Joseph, John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene, and others. The centuries of Christian history have produced many others who are honored as Saints and given days to be remembered on the Church's calendar.



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Halloween and All Saints' Day

The word "Halloween" comes from the original name, "All Hallows Eve."

Everybody knows about Halloween. It is a time to dress up in costumes, go to parties, and ask for candy from neighbors. It comes each year on October 31. But why is it always the night before All Saints' Day?

The word "Halloween" comes from the original name, "All Hallows Eve."

All Hallows Eve was the evening before the Church's services remembering all the Saints. Hallows means "hallowed" (honored as holy).

In ancient times, people believed that

the souls of the dead would rise from their graves on the night before All Saints' Day. Individuals dressed in costumes and lit fires so that the evil spirits would not recognize them. From this ancient practice comes the celebration of Halloween.

Today, many congregations make a point of connecting Halloween with the celebration of All Saints' Day. They plan church activities that focus on the Saints. Children and adults dress up as their favorite saint and share the events of that person's life.

Patron Saints Linked to Special Causes

Through the centuries, many saints have been associated with particular causes. They are known as "patron saints." For instance, the patron saint of children is St. Nicholas.

If you have lost something, you might think of St. Anthony. If you like to fish, St. Peter is your saint.

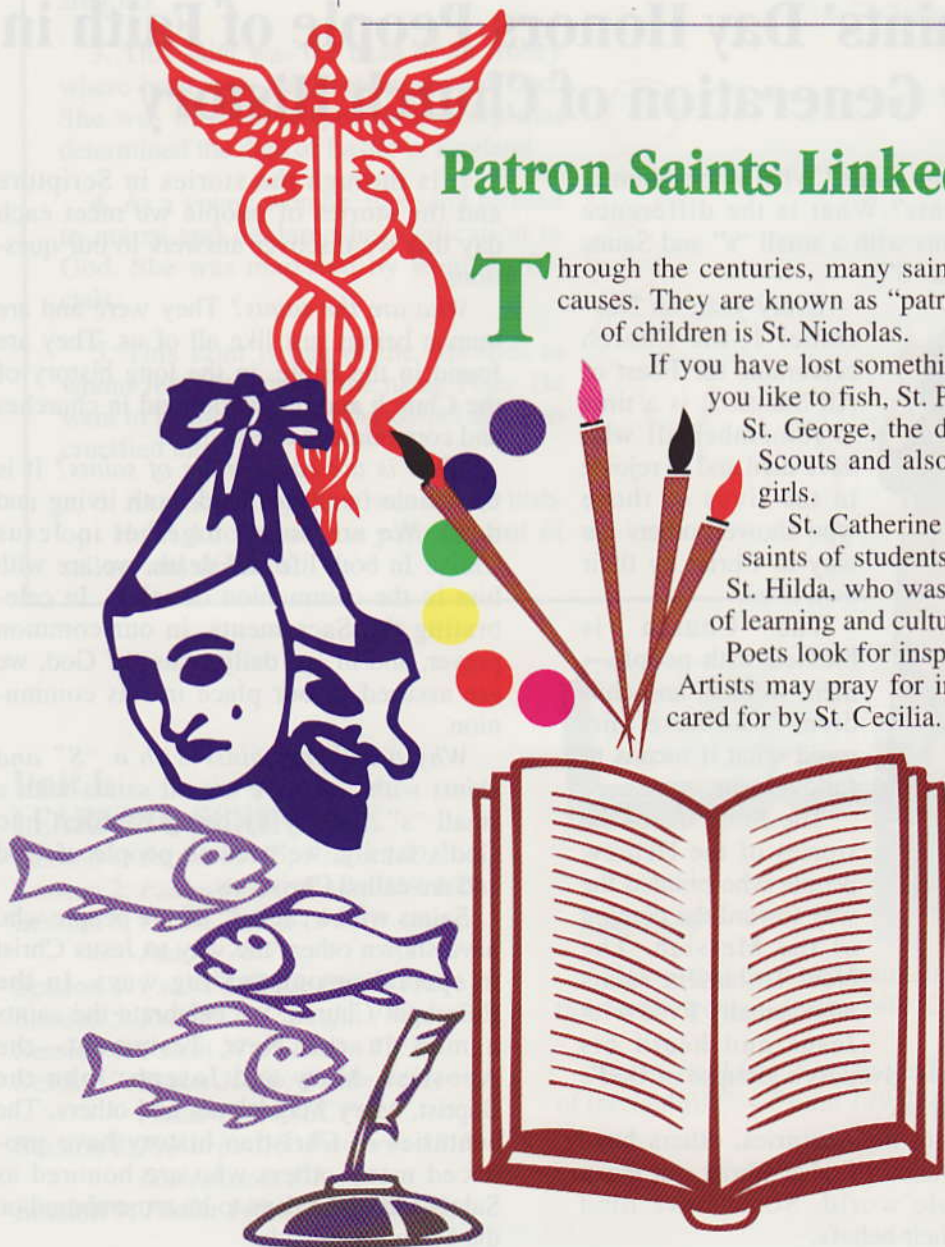
St. George, the dragon slayer, is the patron saint of Boy Scouts and also of England. St. Agnes is the saint for girls.

St. Catherine and St. Thomas Aquinas are the patron saints of students. Teachers claim St. Gregory the Great. St. Hilda, who was the head of an Abbey, is the patron saint of learning and culture.

Poets look for inspiration to David, an Old Testament saint. Artists may pray for inspiration from St. Luke. Musicians are cared for by St. Cecilia.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary is the patron saint of nurses. St. Luke, noted physician to St. Paul, is the patron saint of doctors.

Soldiers and sailors, carpenters and bakers, all are associated with specific saints. Check out a book on saints to find out why people have made these connections.





Psalm 149

Hallelujah!
Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in his Maker;
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
Let them praise his Name in the dance;
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes pleasure in his people
and adorns the poor with victory.
Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;
let them be joyful on their beds. . . .

—The Book of Common Prayer, p. 807

MEMORY CHALLENGE

Venite

*Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.*

*For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.*

*Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep
of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!*

—The Book of Common Prayer,
Morning Prayer II, page 82

Answers:

1. Catherine
2. Elizabeth
3. Hilda
4. Agnes
5. Simon
6. Nicholas



Remembering the Saints

Directions: Use the clues to find the words to fill in the blanks, and put them in the word chain. The last letter of each of the answers is the first letter of the next.

1. This woman was six years old when she saw a vision that led her to become a nun. She worked as a nurse and longed for peace in the church.

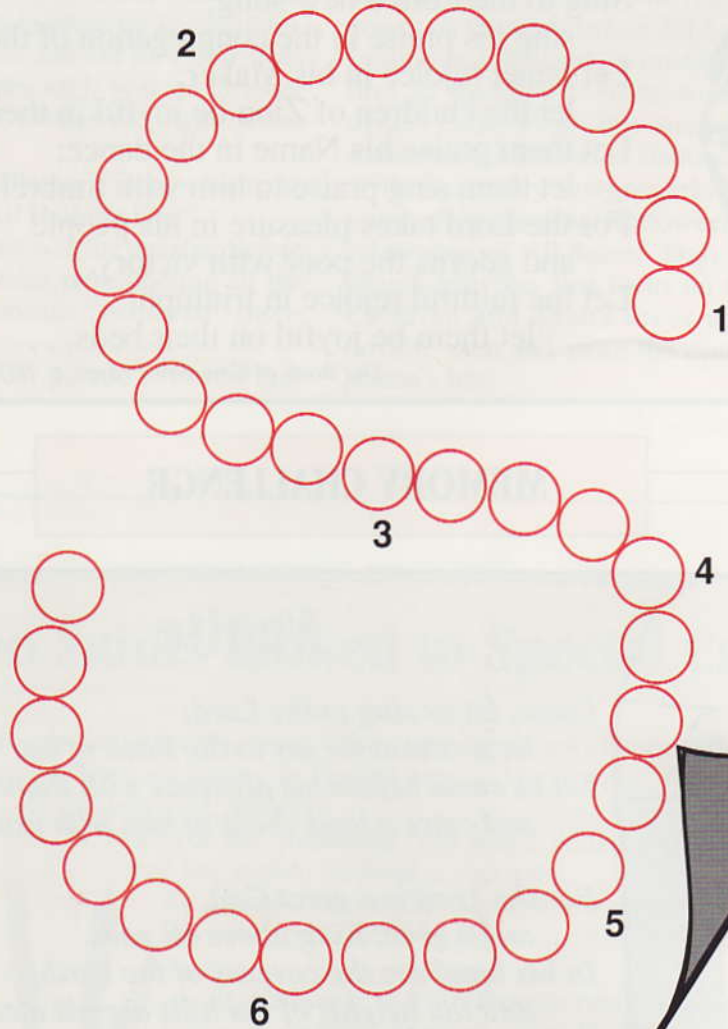
2. This saint helped take care of the poor and the sick. Many hospitals are named after her.

3. This saint was the head of an Abbey where both men and women served God. She was host for a special meeting that determined the date of Easter in England.

4. As a young woman, this saint refused to marry and declared her dedication to God. She was martyred by Roman officials.

5. This saint is one of the Apostles to whom Jesus later gave the name Peter. He went to Rome to spread the gospel and was crucified there.

6. As a boy this person was named bishop. He is known as the patron saint of sailors and children.



Unit I: LEARNING SCRIPTURE

- Session 1: *Psalm 51:15; Psalm 100:2*
- Session 2: *Psalm 117:1; Psalm 119:105*
- Session 3: *Psalm 78:1-2 (BCP); Psalm 78:70*
- Session 4: *Psalm 148:13; Psalm 150:6*
- Session 5: *Psalm 24:1; Psalm 138:1a*
- Session 6: *Psalm 27:1; Psalm 72:1*
- Session 7: *Psalm 30:5b; Psalm 46:1; Psalm 102:7 (BCP)*
- Session 8: *Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 15:1; Ecclesiastes 3:1*
- Session 9: *Psalm 140:12; Psalm 149:1*



LEARNING SCRIPTURE

Session 9

“I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor. —*Psalm 140:12* (NRSV)

“Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.” —*Psalm 149:1* (NRSV)