

**PSALMS – God’s Songs for Us**  
**Lent and Holy Week 2022**

Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio  
Wednesday, March 15, 2022

Psalm 85

Forgiven By God’s Atonement

Yet Still Struggling with Sin

Needing God’s Word and His Blessings

Background information of Psalm 85 from Concordia Self-Study Bible: “A communal prayer for the renewal of God’s mercies to his people at a time when they are once more suffering distress. Many believe that vv. 1–3 refer to the return from exile and that the troubles experienced are those alluded to by Nehemiah and Malachi. Verse 12 suggests that a drought has ravaged the land and may reflect the drought with which the Lord chastened his people in the time of Haggai.”

The return from the Babylonian exile happened over many years. Three specific dates are indicated in the Scriptures,

538 BC under Zerubbabel

458 BC under Ezra

432 BC under Nehemiah.

During these decades there were starts and stops to the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple. Powerful non-Jewish local leaders in the Jerusalem area opposed the return of the exiles and the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple. These events are recorded in the Old Testament books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai and Zechariah.

The idol worship and faithlessness of the Israelites led to the Babylonian captivity. Many people in captivity repented and God let many return through the decades. However, there still was doubting and fear during the rebuilding period. So even though forgiven and blessed by God, they still needed His ongoing Word and blessings to strengthen and guide them.

Thus, Psalm 85 shows thankfulness and trust in God’s forgiveness; yet over the years God’s people still need His forgiveness, teachings and blessings

Psalm 85 has four parts:

### Vs 1-3 Forgiven By God's Atonement

God \_\_\_\_\_ the descendants of Jacob (the Israelites) to be back in the promised land after their captivity.

God forgave the \_\_\_\_\_ of *His* people and \_\_\_\_\_ all their sin. (Selah: Sing or play interlude or...?)

God's wrath and punishment against their sin is halted. (Finally in Jesus' sacrifice.)

### Vs 4-6 Yet Still Struggling with Sin

But the people are still weak and needs God's \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ down though the years ("generations") God's mercy and salvation are needed. God's love is \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Vs 8-9 Needing God's Word

Desiring God's \_\_\_\_\_ . Trusting God will speak \_\_\_\_\_ to His

" \_\_\_\_\_ " (righteous ones) – Don't let them be \_\_\_\_\_ !

Salvation is near everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD.

### Vs 10-13 Needing God's Blessings of Love, Faithfulness, Righteousness and Peace

The people need the LORD's steadfast \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . The LORD will give what is \_\_\_\_\_ .