Songs for the Journey of Faith

Week Two
Psalm 65:9–13: The God Who Provides Abundantly

Opening Prayer

Gracious and generous God, every good and perfect gift comes from You. Open our eyes to see Your hand at work in our lives. Open our hearts to respond with gratitude and open our lips to sing Your praise. Above all, lead us to Jesus Christ, Your greatest gift to the world. In His holy name we pray. Amen.

Good morning, **Saints of Advent**.

Last Sunday we began our journey through the Psalms with **The Lord Who Lifts the Burdened**. As we walked with the psalmist, we discovered God's compassionate heart for those who are bowed down.

Today, our journey continues.

But the psalmist doesn't simply ask us to look.

He invites us to sing.

Psalm 65 is a song of thanksgiving. It is the joyful response of someone who has learned to recognize God's goodness in the ordinary moments of life.

As I prepared this message, I realized something. Before this Psalm could be preached to you, it first had to preach to me. It made me stop and ask, **"Lord, where have I overlooked Your blessings because they seemed so ordinary?"**

Perhaps that is God's question for all of us today.

So, Saints of Advent... **Come, let us sing with the psalmist.**

The psalmist lifts his eyes and sees rain falling on thirsty ground, streams overflowing with water, fields producing grain, and valleys clothed with abundance. Most people would simply call that nature.

The psalmist calls it grace.

That reminded me of a professor friend whom I deeply respect. Over the years we enjoyed many thoughtful conversations about faith.

Whenever I spoke about God's provision, he usually had another explanation.

If I said, "God placed the right person in my path," he would smile and say, "You simply met the right person."

If I spoke about a miracle, he would answer, "It was good timing."

If I said prayer made a difference, he would reply, "You worked hard."

If I thanked God for rain and a good harvest, he would simply say, "That's nature."

One day it dawned on me.

We were looking at the same world.

But we were not seeing the same thing.

That is exactly what the psalmist teaches us.

Faith notices what others overlook.

Where others see coincidence, faith sees God's providence.

Where others see ordinary people, faith sees beloved children of God.

Where others see sinners, faith sees redeemed saints through Jesus Christ.

Where others see strangers, faith sees neighbors.

Where others see interruptions, faith sees opportunities to serve.

The difference is not the world we are looking at.

The difference is the eyes through which we are looking.

The psalmist saw the world through the eyes of faith, and that is why he could not help but sing.

As our eyes begin to recognize God's provision, something begins to change within us.

We no longer see life through the lens of scarcity.

We begin to see life through the lens of abundance.

The psalmist is not counting his blessings because life is easy. He knew hardship, uncertainty, and disappointment. Yet he also knew that God's faithfulness was greater than every circumstance.

That is why gratitude is more than saying, "Thank You."

Gratitude becomes worship.

And worship changes us.

Gratitude changes our character.

Grateful people become humble because they know every good gift comes from God.

Grateful people become generous because they know they have first received.

Grateful people become hopeful because they remember that the God who was faithful yesterday will also be faithful tomorrow.

Hope grows wherever gratitude lives.

Perhaps that is why the psalmist's song overflows with joy. He is no longer focused on what he lacks. He is overwhelmed by what God has already given.

Saints of Advent, imagine beginning every morning with one simple prayer:

"Lord, open my eyes to see where You have already been at work today."

I believe we would complain less. Compare ourselves less. Fear less. and Trust more.

Not because our circumstances had changed—

but because our hearts had.

That is what happens when faith begins to see God's provision.

Gratitude begins to sing.

As beautiful as the harvest was, the psalmist knew it was not God's greatest gift.

Rain gives life for a season.

Bread satisfies for a day.

Harvests come and go.

But God was preparing an even greater provision.

Not simply bread from the earth—

but the Bread of Life.

Not simply water for thirsty fields—

but Living Water for thirsty souls.

Not simply fruitful land—

but a redeemed people.

Every blessing the psalmist celebrated pointed beyond itself.

It pointed to Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the center of human life and all history.

Everything before Him prepared the way for His coming.

Everything after Him bears witness to His resurrection.

Apart from Christ, we may enjoy God's gifts.

In Christ, we come to know the Giver.

At the cross, God provided what we could never provide for ourselves—forgiveness, mercy, reconciliation, and eternal life.

The empty tomb is God's greatest declaration that His provision is greater than our greatest need.

That is why we sing.

Not only because our tables are full.

But because our hearts have been redeemed.

As we walk with the psalmist this week,

Let us keep our eyes open to God's blessings.

Notice one blessing you may have overlooked.

Thank God for it.

Share that blessing with someone else through a kind word, a generous act, or an unexpected encouragement.

Keep singing the song of faith.

Because the world needs people who can see what others overlook.

People whose gratitude gives hope.

People whose lives become hymns of praise.

And whenever God gives you the opportunity,

be a rainbow in someone's clouds—

not so others will notice you,

but so they may discover the God whose mercy shines after every storm.

Saints of Advent,

last Sunday we met the God who lifts the burdened.

Today we have sung with the God who provides abundantly.

Next Sunday our journey continues as we walk with the psalmist in Psalm 86 and discover the God who teaches us His way.

Until then, keep singing the song of faith.

For the God who provides daily bread is the same God who has given us the Bread of Life.

The God who waters the earth is the same God who refreshes our souls.

The God who filled the fields with abundance is the same God who has filled our lives with grace upon grace through Jesus Christ.

To Him be all praise, all honor, and all glory, now and forever. Amen.