



# *Holding on to Our Faith During Difficult Times*

# M.A.P.S.

**Mission, Action, Praise, Supplication**

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# ORDER OF ACTIVITIES

## Introductions

### Prayer & Scripture

#### **Acts 2:42**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers

Mission: apostles' teaching

Action: fellowship

Praise: breaking of bread

Supplication: prayers

## **THEY**

### **APOSTLES' TEACHING**

\* *Jesus, the historical Person.*

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\* *Crucified.*

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\* *Raised.*

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\* *Correspondence with Old Testament prophecy.*

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\* *The promised Messiah.*

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\* *Repentance and faith.*

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How do we affirm our belief in the apostles' teaching?

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We recite the Apostles' Creed.

## FELLOWSHIP

God prepares us individually for the journey ahead

a. Old Testament – Jeremiah 29:11

- i. Message from God – video
- ii. What has God called you to do?

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b. New Testament - Ephesians 2:10

- i. You are gifted for the work you've been called to do – video
- ii. What are your gifts?

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What do we do together?

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What are some of the activities of the presbytery that did not stop during the pandemic?

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How are you continuing to work to serve the church?

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**BREAKING OF BREAD**

God prepares us collectively for the journey ahead

- a. Old Testament – Isaiah 66:1-2
  - i. Our worship together changes us and the world – video
  - ii. How are you worshipping?

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- b. New Testament – Luke 2:8
  - i. Be careful how we call folks to worship – video
  - ii. What kind of encouragement are you offering to bring people to Christ?

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How are we worshipping?

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What are the parameters you put together so that the presbytery continues to worship?

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**PRAYERS**

God prepares us with prayers for the journey ahead

- a. Old Testament – Psalm 23
  - i. There is a map for that prayer
  - ii. What is your psalm?

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**b. New Testament – Matthew 6:9-13**

- i. Teach the children to pray – video
- ii. How are you praying this prayer?

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**Using your hand**

- \* Thumb – pray for yourself
- \* Pointer – pray for someone in authority (parent, boss, pastor)
- \* Middle – pray for someone who is in a high position (government officials)
- \* Ring – pray for someone you love
- \* Pinky – pray for someone less fortunate than you

There are several types of prayers that we use on a regular basis.

**Safe Landing**

God gives us a safe landing for the journey ahead

**Acts 1:8**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

**Jerusalem**

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**Judea**

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**Samaria**

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**Ends of the earth**

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# **S C R I P T U R E S F O R S T U D Y**

The Scriptures used are taken from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

## **Acts 2:42**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

## **Jeremiah 29:11**

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

## **Ephesians 2:10**

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. 2 Peter 1:12-15

## **Isaiah 66:1-2**

Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is my resting place? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things are mine says the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit, who trembles at my word.

## **Luke 2:8**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

## **Psalms 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

## **Matthew 6:9-13**

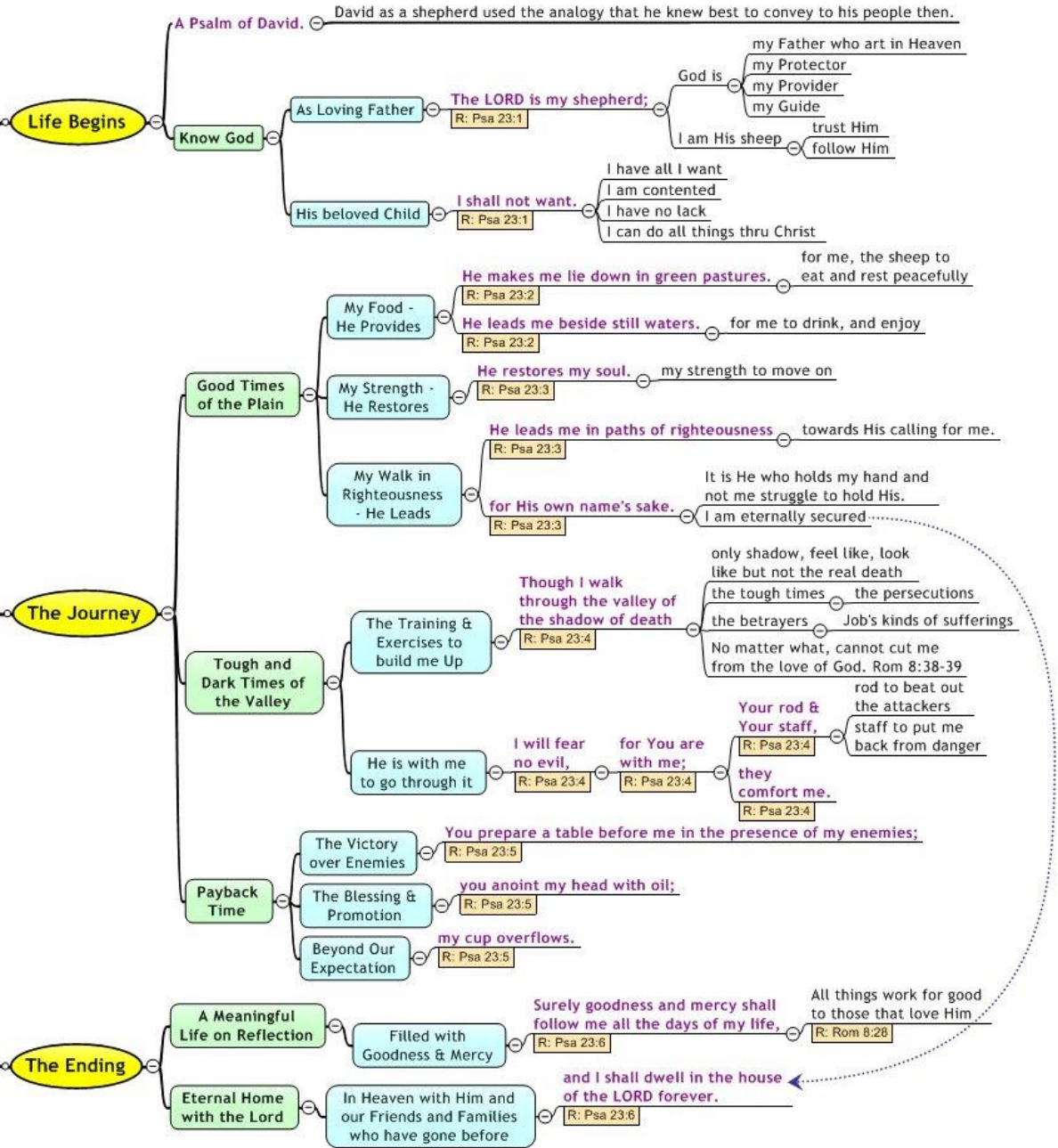
“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, and do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.”

## **Acts 1:8**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.



**Ps 23 The Meaning & Cycle of Life**  
Lim Liat (C) 22-8-12



## Defining Parts of the Psalm

What is your relationship?

How do you rest?

What do you consider refreshing?

What needs to be healed in you?

How has God guided you?

How have you been tested?

From what have you been saved?

What disciplines you?

What has God provided to you that gives you hope?

How has God consecrated you?

What is your abundance?

How are you blessed by God?

What offers you the greatest security?

## My Personal Psalm

The Lord is my \_\_\_\_\_,

I shall not want.

He makes me \_\_\_\_\_,

he leads me \_\_\_\_\_;

he restores \_\_\_\_\_.

He leads me \_\_\_\_\_

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the \_\_\_\_\_,

I fear \_\_\_\_\_;  
for you are with me;

your \_\_\_\_\_ – they  
comfort me.

You prepare \_\_\_\_\_  
in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint \_\_\_\_\_;

my \_\_\_\_\_ overflows.

Surely \_\_\_\_\_ shall  
follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall \_\_\_\_\_.

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**



## A House Prayer

*This prayer was offered during the Lenten season on Saturday, March 17, 2018 during a conference call of clergywomen. The conference call was convened, led, and facilitated by Rev. Cecelia D. Armstrong and this prayer was written by her for this hour-long event.*

Mentally scan your house and each room. There are five rooms in which we claim to constitute a house. The rooms are the living room, the dining room, the bathroom, the kitchen, and the bedroom. During the Lenten season, we should be praying for those who may help to make up our households. Proverbs 14:1a tells us that a wise woman builds her house. Let's use this time this morning to pray for ourselves and others. During the pauses after each room is mentioned, please lift names of people who fall in those categories.

### Living Room

Lord we pray for those who are living. Those who live in our houses and those who we would love to have in our houses. We pray for those who are guests in our lives. We pray for those who lounge on the couch, for those we may share coffee or tea, and for those who are on the television in our living rooms. Let us pray for those who would visit in the living room of our hearts.

### Dining Room

Lord we pray for those who are feeding and those who need to be fed. We pray for babies who need to be fed. We pray for the congregants of our various places of worship who are looking to be fed. We pray for those who need a hot meal and the fellowship of a dining room table. Your Word reminds us that You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies. We pray for the enemies who dine with us.

### Bathroom

Lord we pray for those who need to be washed and made new. We pray for those who need to be showered with blessings and showered with love. We pray for the things that need to be discarded from our lives. May those things that are hindering us from a right relationship with You be loaded into the commode and flushed down the drain. Let the dirty towels be representative of our baptism where You, O God, wiped away our sin. We pray for those who need a new heart created in them so that they may be made anew.

### Kitchen

Lord we pray for those who are cold. We pray for those whose hearts are frozen. We pray for those who need to be heated up in their relationship with God. We pray for those who may need a rinse. We pray for those who may need to be blended with their families or their church homes. We pray for those who are being spoon fed, who are so done with religion that you can put a fork in them, and those who have been cut by the many knives that organized religion can create.

### Bedroom

Lord we pray for those who are asleep. We pray for those who have already taken their rest from their labors and are asleep in the bosom of Jesus Christ. We pray that our ancestors who are at rest will continue to walk with us on our journeys. We pray for those who are on their sick beds now and need Your loving touch of assurance that all will be made well. We pray for those who slumber while You yet cover them with Your grace and mercy. We pray for those who claim to be woke and yet missing the mark with our Creator.

## TYPES OF PRAYERS

### Benediction

The benediction prayer is usually said at the closing of a service of worship. It is usually based on Scripture and considered a blessing to go into the world.

### The Lord's Prayer

The prayer taught to the disciples by Jesus. The prayer can be found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2b-4.

### The Prayer of Adoration

The prayer at the beginning of worship to praise God for who God is. This prayer should be brief and to the point. It is our tradition to include a special prayer for the one proclaiming the Word.

### The Prayer of Confession

The prayer where the people of God acknowledge repentance for what we as individuals and as a people have done or left undone. Usually read in unison followed by an assurance of pardon.

### The Prayer of Commissioning

The prayer offered to strengthen and confirm by formal recognition in worship the particular acts of discipleship in the use of persons' personal gifts for service in the Church and in the world.

### The Prayer of Dedication

The prayer offered after an act of thanksgiving. In most cases, the act of thanksgiving is an offering and could be called the offertory prayer. The prayer should be brief and to the point. The words of the Doxology are a good guide for writing the prayer.

### The Prayer of Illumination

The prayer offered before reading from the Bible, so that we seek the illumination of the Holy Spirit and call upon God to make us receptive to the life-giving Word that comes to us through both the reading and proclamation of Scripture.

### The Prayer of Intercession

The prayer offered as a plead for others, on behalf of others, and for the whole world. The prayer may include the sick and shut-in, those imprisoned, public officials, and the general wellbeing of the entire church.

### The Prayer of Invocation

The prayer that is offered when the gathering is not necessarily a worship service or the place is not a commonplace for worship. This prayer declares allegiance to God.

### The Prayer of Ordination/Installation

The prayer that is offered during the ordination or installation of those who have been called through election by the worship service that and includes the laying on of hands of those previously ordained and called anew to service in ministry.

### The Prayer of Rededication

The prayer of rededication is one that an individual makes, in conjunction with reaffirmation, to repair a breach or gap in fellowship with God caused by acts of sin. This is also a prayer to offer ourselves to the purpose and glory of God and to establish a closer more intimate walk with Jesus.

### The Prayer of Salvation

The prayer said by a non-believer to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The prayer is based on Romans 10:9 that says "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

### The Prayer of Supplication

The prayer offered as a plea for ourselves and the gathered community. This prayer may include prayers for home, church, and the world.

### The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The prayer to express gratitude for what God has done. It is known as the Great Prayer in reference to the Lord's Supper. In this ancient and enduring prayer of the church, we give thanks for all God's mighty acts in the past, present, and future.

### The Prayer of Vow Renewal/Marriage Prayers

The vow or prayer made to support the covenant between the two to be wed. It is the nature of Christian marriage that it is intended for as long as they both shall live. Otherwise, it is something less than marriage.

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# NOTES