

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

STEADFAST IS THE LORD GOD!

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's Responsorial Psalm

The Lord will remember his covenant forever.

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart in the company and assembly of the just. Great are the works of the LORD, exquisite in all their delights.

Majesty and glory are his work, and his justice endures forever. He has won renown for his wondrous deeds; gracious and merciful is the LORD.

He has given food to those who fear him; he will forever be mindful of his covenant. He has made known to his people the power of his works, giving them the inheritance of the nations.

PSALM 111:1B-2, 3-6

*During this week of reflections, I will be using the acronym HARVEST. Each day the focus will be on the letter for that day as noted below. I'm using the theme of fall and autumn and how this season can be used as a kaleidoscope to reflect on our life with God. As this is Friday, the word of focus is **Steadfast**.*

Sunday ~ H: Harmony

Monday ~ A: Awesome

Tuesday ~ R: Rejoice

Wednesday ~ V: Vibrant

Thursday ~ E: Everlasting

Friday ~ S: Steadfast

Saturday ~ T: Testimony

The word steadfast is a solid, foundational description of God's unbroken promise and covenant to us, his people. In turn, it is our response to be steadfast in our faith, prayers, and lived expressions of the gospel we profess.

In our congregation, we often sing the following grace before our meals: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, new every morning. Great is your faithfulness O Lord, great is your faithfulness.*

It's a joyful, energetic song of praise to God, our Beloved. When we sing it, oftentimes we break into rounds and the sounds of rejoicing reverberate off the walls. It is a direct connection to God both individually and communally. It so concretely expresses the love and desire of our hearts and comes from a place deep within us that touches into the love of God and the dear neighbor.

This is what I think of when I hear the word "steadfast." It is full of hope, joy, love, and expression. It is testament to the knowing within us that God is always present, everywhere and at all times.

In keeping with the acronym HARVEST, may we do our part to contribute the bounty of God's goodness in our decisions and encounters. May others reap the harvest of our efforts to live as Jesus has taught us, steadfast in our love of God.

Steadfast In You, O Lord

O God of our comings and our goings, it is from you that we have the desire and fortitude to begin each day knowing of your fierce love for us all. It propels us

toward deeper union with you and all our brothers and sisters.

O God of infinite knowing, your justice endures forever, and it is in and through you that we have our being. You have given us the “inheritance of the nations” and our commitment to you must not waver.

O God of mercy and love, may we strive and cultivate a desire to fulfill the work to which you call us. May we remember, in each cell of our being, the covenant you have promised us.



Switzerland
Photo by Molly Helmlinger

For Pondering

- In your own life, how have you experienced the steadfast love of the Lord? How have you lived into this love in order to be the love our world so desperately needs?

- If you were to write a few stanzas of praise to God, what would you write?
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For Prayer

*O God of steadfast love,
may we be the conduits of this love in the ordinariness of life.
May we search for those most in need of mercy and compassion
and be generous in our response and presence this day.
Amen.*

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