

Put Not Your Trust in Princes

The Psalm for the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost is Psalm 146. It teaches that one should trust in God and not in princes.

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! 2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. 3 Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. 4 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. 5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, 6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; 7 who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; 8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. 9 The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. 10 The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

This psalm is similar to Psalm 145, which also spoke of the Lord's protection and provision for his people. It contrasts the help of earthly rulers, who are short-lived and undependable, with the Lord, who is trustworthy and eternal. The psalmist's whole life will be devoted to praise.

For being called into the Lord's kingdom and preserved in our saving faith, our life can also be one continuous life-long praise of the Lord. Verses 6-10 list the many attributes that can be of great comfort to us.

who made heaven and earth. God is the Creator of all things, including us.

keeps faith. Not one of his saints has ever found Him unreliable. His is a long record of dependability. 2 Timothy 2:13 says it well, "*if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.*" He would not be God if he were to become unfaithful.

who executes justice for the oppressed. This was always a priority with God and was to be so with His people.

gives food to the hungry – For all grow hungry, man and beast, and it is God who satisfies their hunger.

lifts up. God has at numberless times lifted up the discouraged and those who were physically bowed down and given them fresh hope.

Sojourners... upholds the widow and the fatherless. Deuteronomy 10:18 states: "*He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.*"

Prayer: O Lord, help us not to put our trust in people, but in you alone. Forgive us for mistreating others and for looking down on people different from ourselves. Thank you for keeping all of your promises through Christ. Amen. (TLSB)