

Psalm 136:1-26 ESV

His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

Wednesday, November 22 at 7 PM

The Eve of our National Day of Thanksgiving – 2017

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: On this eve of our national day of thanksgiving, we focus on **Psalm 136**. The Psalm declares the greatness of our God and some of His countless mighty acts. We are also reminded 26 times in the Psalm that **His steadfast love endures forever**.

As we work our way through the Psalm, let us be in awe of our Great God and give thanks for His ever-enduring love!

The God of gods: *Let us give Him thanks!*

1. **¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.** // Think about the LORD God Almighty: He is *not bad but good*; furthermore, His love endures forever, *so let us give Him thanks!*
2. **² Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.** // Our God is **the creator and ruler of the universe**; He is far above every so-called god, *so let us give Him thanks!*
3. **³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // Our LORD is **the Master of the Universe**; He is infinitely greater than everyone, *so let us give Him thanks!*

Wonders of Creation: Genesis 1

4. **⁴ to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // A good illusionist can create an illusion of a great wonder, *but the LORD alone is the One who does countless great and actual wonders!*
5. **⁵ to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // There are three

heavens: (1) the daytime sky, (2) the nighttime sky, and (3) the dwelling place of God!

6. **6 to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // After days 1 and 2 of creation, *the earth was still completely covered by water*; then, on day 3, “God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so” (Gen. 1:9 ESV).
7. **7 to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // On day 1 “God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light” (Gen. 1:1 ESV). Then, on day 4, *He created the sun, the moon, and the stars!*
8. **8 the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // The LORD is infinitely intelligent, so He set an ideal distance of 93 million miles between our sun and the earth; *a little further away would make the earth too cold, a little closer would make it too hot!*
9. **9 the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // Years ago I sometimes found myself driving all night; when the sky was clear and the moon was nearly full, it was as if the LORD had turned on a night light just for me! Not sure if God awesome? Drive away from the city lights at night, then gaze at the stars – and you will say “YES”!

Wonders of the Exodus: Exodus 11-12

10. **10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // That was the tenth plague; the LORD **passed over** every house marked with **the blood of a lamb**, but *in every other house* at least one person was dead. The Passover pointed ahead to **Jesus’ work to save us from our sins!**
11. **11 and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // So with the tenth plague, Pharaoh said to Moses and Aaron, “...go out from

among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD..." (Ex. 12:31 ESV).

12. **¹² with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // The LORD made it clear to Pharaoh that *the LORD is God!*
13. **¹³ to him who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // The LORD led the Israelites to the Red Sea, and they appeared to be trapped, *but then the LORD divided the sea!*
14. **¹⁴ and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // With Pharaoh's army rapidly approaching to slaughter them, *they were compelled to pass through between the two walls of water!*
15. **¹⁵ but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // So the Israelites were saved, *while the Egyptians were killed!*
16. **¹⁶ to him who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // It was awesome; *He led with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night!*

Wonders of the Conquest: Numbers 21:21-35

17. **¹⁷ to him who struck down great kings, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // Some kings seemed to be great, *but the LORD is far greater!*
18. **¹⁸ and killed mighty kings, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // Some kings seemed to be mighty, *but the LORD showed His might and protected His people by killing those mighty kings!*
19. **¹⁹ Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // The Israelites simply wanted to pass through the land of the Amorites, but Sihon said "no" and fought Israel, *so the LORD defeated Sihon!*

20. **²⁰ and Og, king of Bashan, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // Even though Og had sixty cities, *the LORD gave all of them to the Israelites!*
21. **²¹ and gave their land as a heritage, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // The Israelites received the land as an inheritance, *because of their **relationship** with God! It is for that same reason that we will inherit God's kingdom!*
22. **²² a heritage to Israel his servant, for his steadfast love endures forever.** // Again, the topic is relationship; *let us be thankful for our relationship with God through Jesus!*

God's Loving Care:

23. **²³ It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // When they were slaves in Egypt, *the LORD remembered them!*
24. **²⁴ and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;** // So the LORD took powerful action on behalf of the Israelites *to set them free!*
25. **²⁵ he who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.** // David prayed to the LORD: *"You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing" (Psalm 145:16 NIV).* So, before every meal, *let us acknowledge and thank the LORD!*

Conclusion:

26. **²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.** // We all have countless blessings, so let us ♦think about them, ♦be thankful for them, and ♦share with those who are in need!

Let us pray: Father in heaven, you have given us bodies that live, eyes that see, ears that hear, and tongues that taste; You have also given Your own Son to bring us into Your holy family; therefore, *fill us with thanksgiving!*

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230