

Session III: Psalms as Prayer

1. In the NRSV, Psalm 102 has the subscription “A prayer of one afflicted, when faint and pleading before the Lord”. Read verses 3 to 11. Has there been a time of grief, pain or worry in your life when you were told that it was wrong or even sinful to question God? Is it liberating to find in the Psalms a God as interested in hearing our complaints as in hearing our praise?
2. Psalm 90 is a meditation on an Eternal God in communion with frail, corruptible humankind. When have you felt impatient with God’s response to Human suffering? When have you been sustained by God’s awesome presence across all time?
3. Psalm 51 is a cry of penitence. Recognizing his sinful nature (“I was born guilty”) King David prays “Create in me a clean heart, O God. And renew a right spirit within me.” How do our concepts of Baptism and of being born again echo this prayer?