

# Prayer of Confession

Bethel Baptist Church  
May 24, 2026

## Scripture Reading:

(Psalm 69:1-18) <sup>1</sup> Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. <sup>2</sup> I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. <sup>3</sup> I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God. <sup>4</sup> More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore? <sup>5</sup> O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you. <sup>6</sup> Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord GOD of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel. <sup>7</sup> For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face. <sup>8</sup> I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. <sup>9</sup> For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me. <sup>10</sup> When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach. <sup>11</sup> When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them. <sup>12</sup> I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me. <sup>13</sup> But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. <sup>15</sup> Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me. <sup>16</sup> Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me. <sup>17</sup> Hide not your face from your servant, for I am in distress; make haste to answer me. <sup>18</sup> Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!

This is the Word of the Lord!

## Let's Pray

Merciful Father,

Your Name is high and holy, worthy of reverence, trust, and delight,  
Yet we confess that when affliction rises,  
our hearts quickly sink beneath the waves.

Troubles expose how frail we are.  
Instead of fixing our eyes upon your steadfast love,  
we turn inward upon ourselves.  
We give our fears more attention than your promises,  
and the noise of evil speaks louder to us than your Word.

We confess how easily unbelief takes root in us.  
When the night lingers,  
we question whether you hear.  
When relief delays,  
we doubt whether you care.

Our minds run toward the darkest outcome.  
Our hearts conclude that our condition will never change.  
We feel as though our feet have slipped from solid ground,  
as though the floods are ready to swallow us whole.

In our despair we are tempted toward thoughts, attitudes, and sins  
that in calmer days would have grieved us.  
Our present troubles become so large in our eyes  
that your fatherly care is hidden behind them.

Yet we have heard the cry of the Psalmist:  
“Save me, O God,  
for the waters have come up to my neck.”

Lord, we know that cry.  
We know what it is to feel weary with groaning,  
to wait until our eyes grow dim,  
to wonder why deliverance tarries.

And as we come to 1 Samuel 18,  
we see your servant David surrounded by danger.  
The king who should have sheltered him sought instead to destroy him.  
Jealousy hunted the anointed king,  
and sorrow became his companion.

Still, O Lord,  
you were not absent from David’s afflictions.  
You were shaping him through them.  
You were teaching him dependence,  
forming endurance within him,  
strengthening hope through trial,  
and preparing him for glory through suffering.

We confess that we often forget this.  
We want immediate rescue more than sanctified hearts.  
We want comfort more than communion with you.

Forgive us, gracious Savior,  
for doubting your wisdom.  
Forgive us for listening to fear more than truth.  
Forgive us for magnifying our troubles above your sovereignty.  
Forgive us for acting as though our burdens are greater than your power,  
or our sorrows deeper than your mercy.

Teach us again to look to Christ.  
When our hearts accuse us,  
remind us that our greatest enemy has already been conquered at the cross.  
When despair whispers that we are abandoned,  
remind us that the risen Christ intercedes for us even now.  
Let the empty tomb preach hope to our weary souls.

Help us to remember that on the far side of David’s troubles stood deliverance,  
and on the far side of our suffering stands eternal joy with Christ.

So keep us from despair, O Lord.  
Cause us to praise you even while the waters rise.  
Anchor us in the certainty that you are near,

that you love your people,  
and that nothing comes to us apart from your wise and fatherly hand.

Use even these troubles to glorify your Name,  
to loosen our grip on this world,  
and to make us long more deeply for Christ.

We ask these things in the Name of our crucified and risen Savior,  
Amen.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

(Romans 8:31-34 ESV) <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.