

# Pray, Grow, & Serve

Learning about the dignity of the human person

The PELICAN  
PROJECT

4th Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023 | Violet

## FAITH IN GOD'S PERFECT GOODNESS

"Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

### Sometimes we don't understand God's plan.

This Sunday, we pray Psalm 89, written by Ethan the Ezrahite; our response is, "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

Who is Ethan the Ezrahite? Great question! We cannot be certain who exactly Ethan was, but most scholars believe that Ethan was a musician in David's court filled with great wisdom.

**Grow:** This psalm begins with Ethan praising God for the covenant He has made to restore His people, but in verse 39, Ethan moves from confidently praising God to worrisome pleading with God to not forget His people. Why would Ethan be filled with praise for God's goodness and certainty over His faithfulness then so quickly be filled with worry and confusion, begging God to not forget His people? That's another very good question.

Ethan knew how much God loved him and that He would never break His covenant with His people—but Ethan felt worry in His heart because nothing was going as he thought it should. For example, Ethan recalls God's promise for the line of David to rule through all ages. However, the Davidic King had just suffered a terrible loss! Ethan was very confused, and so were the other Israelites. How can the line of David reign forever when he has lost his kingdom?

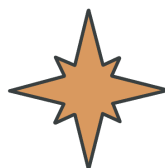
**Ethan was just like us. He loved God and had faith in His promise, but sometimes felt worried when He didn't understand God's plan.** Turns out, God's plan was way better than anyone could have imagined (it always is!). God's plan to restore His people was for Jesus to be born of the line of David and to fulfill his kingdom by establishing the Kingdom of God—the Church—where Jesus reigns forever.

Like Ethan, we may sometimes feel worried and wonder if God has forgotten us, especially when we experience bullies, suffering, sadness, loss, hardship, regret, and blame. When these things happen, we may wonder where is God's strength, mercy, and justice? It is important to remember that Psalm 89 ends with these words: Blessed be the Lord forever, amen and amen.

Worry and doubt sometimes happen on our walk of faith, but we must never forget that even when the Israelites were confused and everything seemed to be going wrong, God knew He was soon sending the gift of His Son!

### I know the plans I have for you.

**Pray:** While it is a part of our walk in faith to cry out to the Lord, we know, deep in our hearts, that while God sometimes allows things to feel hard—the prophet Jeremiah reminds us, "**For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**" Remember, when all feels lost we can look to the stars and remember the night our Savior was born! Pray this verse this week as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who restores our hearts and our future of eternal life with Him!



### Remembering His Goodness!

**Serve:** This Advent we have learned some really important things! We learned that God always provides for our needs, that He dwells within us, that the Church is God's Kingdom and through the Church we learn how to care for the dignity of the human person. We learned that Mary guides us to her Son and that, just like our Blessed Mother, our life has great purpose and our soul was made to proclaim the greatness of the Lord!

As we enter the Christmas season, serve your family well by committing to journey with The Pelican Project this liturgical year! Merry Christmas...and see you next week!

