

psalm 84

a psalm of Zion

accompanied on the gittith

translation by NRSV and Robert Alter

- ¹ How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O LORD of Armies!
- ² My very being longs,
indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
- ³ Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young at Your altars,
O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- ⁴ Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing Your praise. *selah*
- ⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in You,
in whose hearts are the highways to Zion.
- ⁶ Who pass through the Valley of Tears,
they make it a place of springs—
the early rain also covers it with blessed pools.
- ⁷ They go from strength to strength, from tower to tower;
They appear before God in Zion.
- ⁸ O LORD God of Armies, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! *selah*
- ⁹ Behold our shield, O God;
look on Your anointed one's face.
- ¹⁰ For a day in your Courts is better than a thousand in my chamber.
I would rather stand at the doorway in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.
- ¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
God is grace and glory.
The LORD gives,
He does not withhold bounty from those who go blameless.
- ¹² O LORD of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in You.

your prayer

Use this space to respond to God and to the psalm, or to collect your notes.

prompts for psalm 84

Reading the Psalm

- Where does the psalm begin? Where does it end? How does it get there?
- What images are in this psalm?
- Does the psalm make any major shifts? Any contrasting images and language?
- What does this psalm say about God?
- Where is God's dwelling place in the psalm? What about today?
- How does this psalm describe the pilgrimage?

Letting the Psalm Read You

- What does this psalm say about your journey?
- What is lovely in your life? What do you long for?
- Reflect on the place for home in your life.
- What can you lay at God's altar (v3)?
- What does it mean to be happy?

Fill in the Blank

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! ...

