



## Wednesday Prayer

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Even the sparrow finds a home

**How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!  
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

**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.**

**Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah**

**Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

**As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

**They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.**

**Psalm 84:1-7**

I gaze out at the pond behind my home with the first thin sheet of ice that formed overnight. The cold Minnesota winter is not far off. I think of those who find shelter and home in a community of tents, an emergency shelter or youth home, or who find their way into churches on a cold day seeking a place to sit for a time. This is not uncommon in my experience of attending church in the city, across from a light rail station, with highways nearby that may provide the comfortable noise and access to services for those who are unhoused.

This week I was visiting with members of a small community church almost an hour from the city, and the women shared how one young man comes into their church every so often and just sits in the gathering area. They shared that while it makes them a bit nervous, especially if they are alone in the office, they really don't think that he means any harm. He may just be looking for a place to rest or finds comfort within the church's walls. They also commented on how unfortunate it is that the church doors are locked more often now, while understanding the safety needs.

Psalm 84 celebrates God's presence in the sacred space of the temple. Even the sparrow finds a home. It is a life-giving space of safety and shelter. As we enter the cold months ahead, let us think of how our faith communities can be life-giving, offering safety and shelter in the many ways we care for our neighbors. If your church engages in a gifting program for a shelter or a meal program for those in need, your participation might provide the "strength to strength" offering hope to another. If you'd like to participate with LSS Metro Homeless Youth Services Holiday Gifts Program, reach out to [metrohomelessyouth@lssmn.org](mailto:metrohomelessyouth@lssmn.org).

**Dear God of shelter and comfort, let us share the joy of our worship spaces with our neighbors, offering the strength of your presence. Amen.**

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