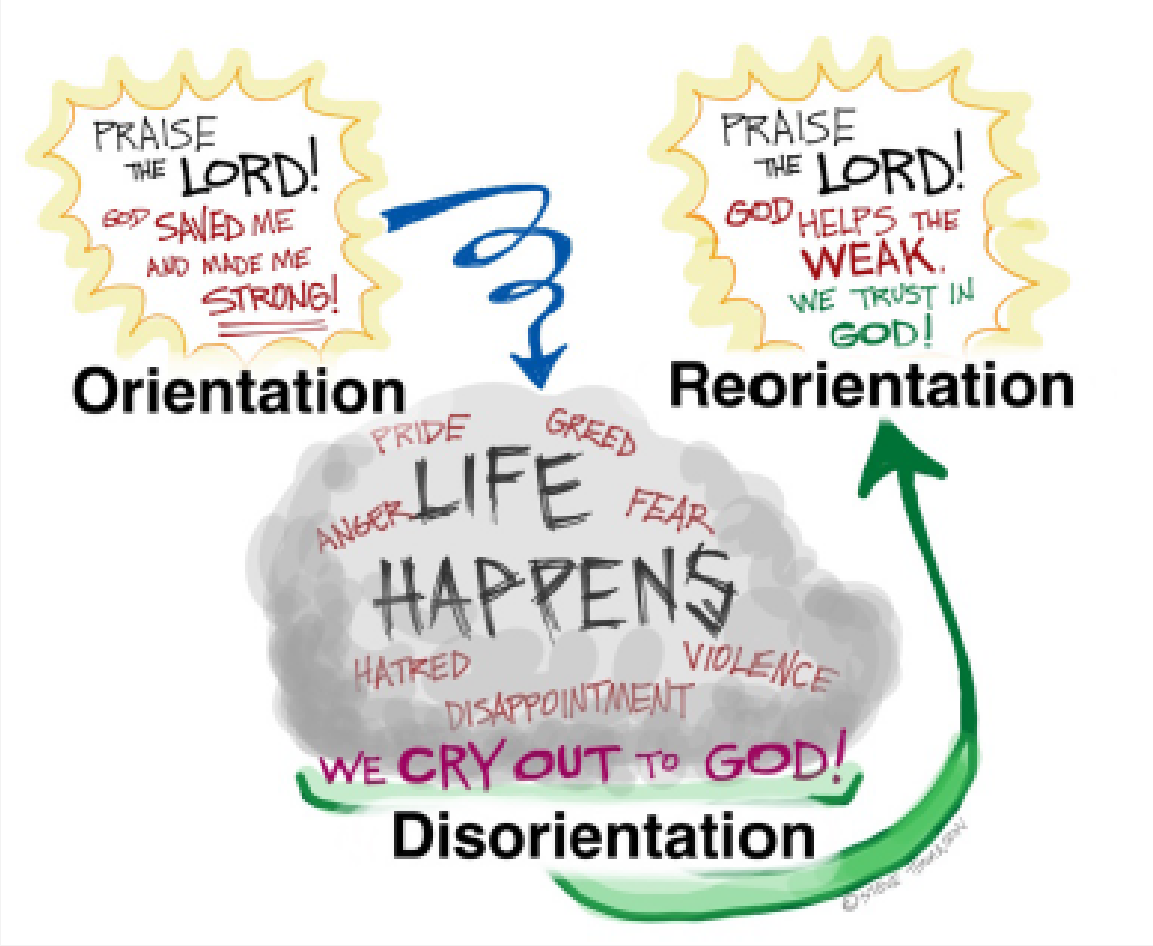
FAITH matters

March 16, 2026

Faith Happens

I love the Psalms! I've read all 150 of them many, many times and find them, if not always beautiful, then at least meaningful. They're so real, so relevant, so reassuring. The drawing below by the Rev. Dr. Steve Thomason (Used by permission: cartoonistbible.com) depicts Walter Brueggemann's approach to the Psalms based on his book, Spirituality of the Psalms, (Minneapolis MN: Fortress Press, 2002.) He categorizes them as:

1. Psalms of Orientation (for example, Ps. 8, 24, 33, 104, 133, 145) which express gratitude to God for the blessings of life.
2. Psalms of Disorientation (for example, Ps. 13, 35, 74, 86, 95, 137) which lament brokenness in the world and in us.
3. Psalms of New or Reorientation (for example, Ps. 29, 47, 93, 97, 98, 114, 148, 150) which praise God for salvation from that which was broken.



If you're like me, the current state of the world is disturbing to say the least. Political division, justice issues, gun violence, social media intrusion, economic uncertainty, the threat to our democracy, our own personal and family concerns are overwhelming enough. Now we're at war in the Middle East. God help us!

I can think of no better time to turn to the Psalms for the divine perspective and hope we need. If you read 7.5 psalms each day, you'll have read them all by Easter! Or, read one a day – choose from the 20 listed above or read your favorites. It's a significant way to prepare to celebrate the quintessential hope that is ours because Jesus Christ is risen!

Faith happens when we acknowledge and thank God for our blessings, pour out our hearts to God in our anguish, and allow God's Word to assure us that we're loved and saved by God's grace *no matter what*. Reading the Psalms will help you do that. As you read, see in which of the above categories that day's psalms belong. Perhaps you'll want to write your own psalm in response. However you do it, God will use your devotion to give you what you need.

~Written by Rev. Margie Osborn

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