



SERMON

LWMLC Sunday 2025

Text: Psalm 90:14
Pastor Mark Rekken
Mission Grant Recipient
Lutheran Hospital Ministries
Southern Alberta

SATISFYING LOVE

Our text for this LWMLC Sunday is from Psalm 90:14: “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all of our days.”

When you think of the word “satisfy,” what experiences come into your mind? Perhaps it is the last bite of a perfectly cooked steak before leaning back in your chair. Or perhaps it’s a cup of stiff black coffee after a sweet cinnamon roll. For others maybe it is lying down after a hard day’s work. Or relaxing sore joints in a hot tub. Maybe it’s finishing a great book.

Whatever experience comes to mind, we all know the feeling of satisfaction, and it is a good feeling!

In our verse today, Moses cries out for satisfaction. But the satisfaction Moses is crying for is something much deeper than what steaks, or hot tubs, or books can complete. Moses is speaking about the satisfaction of the human soul.

The thirst and hunger and aching of the human spirit is not easily satisfied. Yet, Psalm 90 tells us three things about it. It tells us: 1) What will satisfy the human soul. 2) Whose soul will be satisfied. 3) When it will be satisfied.

continued



1) What will satisfy the human soul? Moses pleads: “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love...”

Love. This is what the human soul craves. The human soul is a cavernous container desperate to be filled with love. If you turn on the radio, what is almost every song about? Love. What is the solution and climax of every Disney movie? Finding true love!

The human soul aches, yearns, and pants to be loved. Our souls need love to be satisfied.

But my friends, please notice, Moses does not say just any kind of love will satisfy. He gets more specific than that. First, he says “steadfast love.” We could also translate it “faithful love” or perhaps “loyal love.”

I don’t know about you, but for my soul to be truly satisfied—at peace and at rest—there must be a sense of finality. If I am loved today, but know that there’s a chance tomorrow I won’t be, my soul cannot be satisfied with that. If there is a chance that love will cease, or will give up, or that it will grow cold, or change its mind, or leave the next morning, if that can happen, I might be able to enjoy love for a moment, but my soul cannot be satisfied with it. Instead my soul will be gnawed away with restless worry and anxiety.

For my soul to be satisfied with love, it must be a steadfast love. It must be an enduring love. It must be an everlasting love. It must be a love that I am safe in. It must be a love that nothing can separate me from. It must be a love that will never leave me and never forsake me.

And that leads us to the other thing Moses adds. Moses does not just say: “satisfy us with steadfast love.” No, he says: “satisfy us with Your steadfast love.” We need the love of God Himself!

If you wanted to extinguish the sun, all the water in our world would not be enough to put it out. You would need a source of water from outside our world. You would need a much greater, a much bigger, a nearly infinite supply of water to quench the sun. In the same way, the human soul’s demand and need for love is so large that all the love in this world would never satisfy it. Solomon’s 700 wives did not quench his thirst for love. And if you were the most famous person on earth, and every other person on earth adored you, your soul would still feel crave something more.

Only the love of the infinite God will ever be enough to satisfy the human soul. CS Lewis put it well when he said: “Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” (*Mere Christianity*).

Our souls were created to enjoy God’s steadfast love, and there is nothing that can be substituted for it. When Moses cries: “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love...” it is because he knows there is no other thing that will satisfy. The faithful and enduring love of Yahweh—that is what will satisfy the human soul!

2) Now comes the second question. Who will be satisfied with God’s love?

It is clear from Scripture that not all human souls will be. Though God loves His whole creation; nevertheless, many will be shut out from enjoying His love. They will spend eternity gnawing and gnashing in an awful and eternal state of DIS-satisfaction.

So who will be satisfied with God’s love? Moses says: “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love...” Who is “us”?

There are many things we could say here... When we read the rest of Psalm 90 we see that “us” includes people who have been afflicted and have endured all kinds of heartache (we see that from verse 15). “Us” includes people whose hope has run out and are realizing they are going to die. (We see that in verses 9 and 10.) And we even see that those with whom God has been angry—those who have grieved God by repetitive sin—can never-the-less be satisfied with His steadfast love.

As I said, there are all kinds of things we could say. But let’s back the dog into the corner. Who is it that will be satisfied? No guesses. No hunches. I need to know! Who is it that God will satisfy with His love?

The answer to that is in the superscription of the Psalm. Psalm 90 is entitled “A Prayer of Moses, the Man of God.” Psalm 90 was written by Moses while he led the Israelites through the desert. And it is true, the Israelites were afflicted. They died like the rest of mankind. They sinned and God became angry at them. But what was it specifically about them that gave them the hope of being satisfied with God’s love?

Answer: they were God's covenant people. God had made a covenant –a solemn oath– with these people that He would be their God and they would be His people.

If you asked a husband, “Why do you buy roses for that woman and kiss her but you don't do that for any others? She doesn't seem that much different than any other woman. In fact, you seem to fight with her more than with other women!” The husband would say: “Because she's my wife!” In other words: “She and I have a covenant relationship. I have made vows and promises to her to love her till death do us part!”

Dear friends, our God is a covenant-making covenant-keeping God. Who does He satisfy with His love? Those with whom He is in a covenant relationship.

Romans 6:3-5 says: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.”

What Paul is describing there is the covenant with God we entered into when we were baptized. When we were baptized into Christ we were united to Him like a wife to her husband in a covenant relationship. We were united to Him in His death. We were united to Him in His burial. We were united to Him in His resurrection. And we were (and are) united to Him in the new and eternal life He now lives.

Dear friends if you believe in Jesus Christ and have been baptized in His name, you stand in a covenant relationship with God Most High and you will be satisfied with His steadfast love! Though you are a sinner; though you have failed Him; though you have been unfaithful and grieved Him and even angered Him by your sin; nevertheless, your soul will taste, feel, and know what it is to be perfectly loved. As Mark 16:16 says: “He who believes and is baptized will be saved!”

And that takes us to our last question...

3) When will we be satisfied? Once again, the answer is in our text. Moses says: “satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love.

What does that mean? I see three levels of meaning here. First I think “the morning” means the literal morning. Lamentations 3:22-23 says God’s mercies are new every morning. And Psalm 30:5 says: “Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”

Often it happens that after we have sinned, we confess it and believe that we have been forgiven... but we still feel guilty, condemned, and as if God is frowning upon us. Yet, the next morning, after a good sleep, we awake and those dark feelings are gone. Though we knew by faith that we were forgiven, now—in the morning—we feel it too!

Or perhaps we are being attacked by Satan in some way and we have prayed for deliverance but the assault seems to continue. And it is not until the next morning that the clouds seemed to have passed and it feels as if the sun is shining on us again.

In these ways, it often happens that God satisfies us “in the morning” with His love.

Yet there are deeper meanings here beyond this one. What does it mean that God will satisfy us “in the morning”? Dear friend, when was it that our Lord Jesus rose up from the grave? When did He arise victorious? It was the morning of the third day.

Romans 4:25 says, Jesus “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

Jesus Christ died for our sins on the cross. He shed His blood to take away our transgressions. The punishment that brought us peace was poured out into His body. And when it was all over He said: “it is finished.”

When He was raised from the dead, that was the Father showing that He accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. That your sins are gone! That it really is finished! God’s wrath has been emptied. And you now have peace with God through your Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you see? Because Jesus died for us and then rose from the dead on Easter morning, we now know that God loves us! And that His heart toward us His grace, mercy, and peace!

And so, “satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,” is speaking to us about the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

But there is one more meaning.

Romans 13:11 says: “Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand.”

Sometimes in history class the teacher converts the last 1,000 years into a 24-hour clock to help her students get a perspective on how close or far apart events were. For example, she might show that 95% of technological advancement has happened only in the last few minutes of the clock!

In a similar way, there are times in the Bible that all of history is spoken of as one single day. And just as Genesis says “and there was evening and there was morning, the first day,” in this understanding the evening and night comes first and then comes the morning and the day.

In Romans 13, which I just read, Paul is saying we are living in the night but the morning is almost here! What is the morning of this cosmic day? It is the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. His riding on the clouds to meet us is the sunrise of the new and eternal day!

When will we be satisfied with God’s steadfast love? In the morning! In the morning of the age to come! When King Jesus returns and brings us to Himself and restores all things. On that day we will see Him face to face and then we will finally be fully satisfied with His love, and it will be forever. As our verse for today says we will “rejoice and be glad all our days.”

Now, in closing, I have two words. First, let your heart take hope in this. Jesus is coming. Your soul will one day be finally and fully satisfied with God’s love. This is for you! Let your heart be happy by hearing this news!

Second, be part of sharing this news. I commend the Lutheran Women's MISSIONARY League–Canada for their activities in sharing this news; and, I encourage all of us, whether through LWMLC or through another channel, to be a partner in sharing this good news!

The steadfast love of God is what every human soul on earth is hungering for, and we know where they can get it! God will not turn any away who come to drink this water, but rather He will give it free and without price. Let us tell others about it!

Now to Him who has and who will satisfy us with His steadfast love be all glory forever and ever. Amen.