

Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 33

English Standard Version Scripture Text

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. ² Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! ³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. ⁴ For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. ⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. ⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. ¹⁰ The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. ¹¹ The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. ¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! ¹³ The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; ¹⁴ from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, ¹⁵ he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. ¹⁶ The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. ¹⁷ The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. ¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ¹⁹ that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. ²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. ²¹ For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Historical Context

Psalm 33 is a hymn of praise celebrating the LORD as Creator, sovereign King, and faithful covenant God. It reflects Israel's worship life and contrasts trust in God's steadfast love with confidence in armies, wealth, or political power. The psalm reminds worshipers that history is governed by God's purposes rather than human strength.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 1–3 – The righteous are called to joyful praise.

Verses 4–9 – God's word creates and sustains all things.

Verses 10–12 – God's purposes endure beyond the plans of nations.

Verses 13–19 – The LORD watches over and delivers those who fear Him.

Verses 20–22 – The psalm ends with confident hope in God's steadfast love.

Theological Themes

- God's sovereignty
- Creation by God's word
- Divine providence
- Hope in God's steadfast love

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:1–10

English Standard Version Scripture Text

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Historical Context

Paul wrote Romans around AD 57 while Nero's reign was still in its early years. Christians in Rome lived under imperial authority and sought to understand how faith in Christ shaped their responsibilities as citizens. Paul teaches that governing authorities have a God-given role in preserving order while emphasizing that love is the fulfillment of God's Law.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 1–2 – Respect governing authorities.

Verses 3–5 – Authority exists to restrain evil and promote order.

Verses 6–7 – Fulfill civic responsibilities with integrity.

Verses 8–10 – Love fulfills the Law by seeking the neighbor's good.

Theological Themes

- Christian citizenship
- Love as fulfillment of the Law
- Submission to God
- Neighborly love

Concluding Reflection

Psalm 33 and Romans 13 together remind believers that God's sovereign rule extends over creation and society. Trust in God's enduring purposes frees Christians to live faithfully, responsibly, and lovingly in every sphere of life.

Thoughts to Consider

1. Why does Psalm 33 place confidence in God rather than human power?
2. How does God as Creator shape our response to uncertainty?
3. What principles does Paul give for relating to governing authorities?
4. Why does Paul say love fulfills the Law?
5. How can you demonstrate Christ-like love in your community this week?