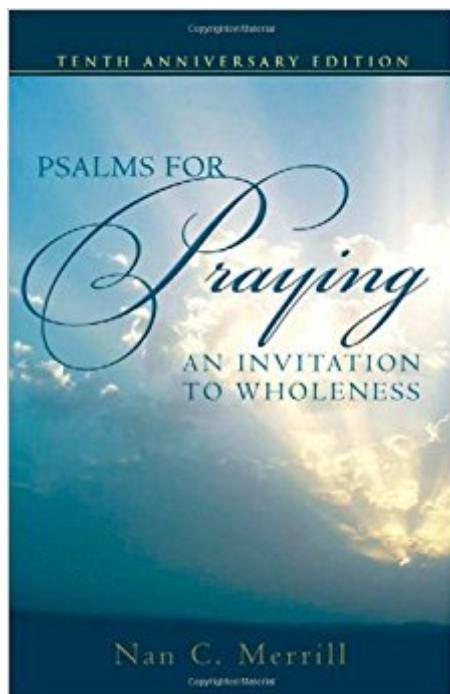


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# Psalms For Praying: An Invitation To Wholeness



## **Synopsis**

Every commentary on the Book of Psalms has had to face the issue that many of these prayers commemorate and celebrate wrath and vengeance. What is needed is not ingenious exegetical rationalization of ancient texts, but the kind of transformation into a work of piety and art that is provided here. Addressed are the needs of a world seeking to counter individual and societal injustices by a global peace born of personal peace through prayer and practice. In short, here is the Book of Psalms recast in the light of the continuing revelation and evolution of the authentic religious spirit of the scriptures.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Merrill has reworked the Psalms in a loving, contemplative manner, which betrays none of the book's original vigor or essence. Rather, in a mode that is fresh and eloquent, Merrill's psalms evoke that deep sense of reverence and soul-stirring dialogue with the divine that is often eclipsed by the fear of the divine. Highly recommended for all libraries. *Library Journal* (Library Journal) A much-needed resource for home liturgies and individual prayer. *Contemporary Spirituality* The very liveliness of the Psalms causes us to want to say them in our own language. Nan Merrill has done this marvelously, and I'm grateful for this labor of imagination and love. *Madeleine L'Engle* Merrill allows the Psalms to be something new, fresh, contemporary, and yet themselves. *Walter Wink* "Psalms for Praying, 150 quasi-paraphrases by Nan. C. Merrill has been revised to celebrate its tenth anniversary. It pertains

to people praying any or all of the Psalms less woodenly or bewilderingly or distantly than they otherwise might, being neither ancient Hebrews nor Bible scholars. She loosens things up. In Psalm 10 she turns the words "the wicked hotly pursue the poor" (and, on the face of it, causing trouble for us good guys) to 'I strike out against those weaker than myself.' With her nimbly turning the tables, we pray-ers see ourselves on the other side of the picture. We may find ourselves more nimble and humble when next we open our Bibles to Psalm 10?or to chapter 10 or verse 10 anywhere else in the inspired set of Books." Philip C. Fischer, Review for Religious, Vol. 66, 2007 (Reviews for Religious)  
"Psalms for Praying, 150 quasi-paraphrases by Nan. C. Merrill has been revised to celebrate its tenth anniversary. It pertains to people praying any or all of the Psalms less woodenly or bewilderingly or distantly than they otherwise might, being neither ancient Hebrews nor Bible scholars. She loosens things up. In Psalm 10 she turns the words "the wicked hotly pursue the poor" (and, on the face of it, causing trouble for us good guys) to 'I strike out against those weaker than myself.' With her nimbly turning the tables, we pray-ers see ourselves on the other side of the picture. We may find ourselves more nimble and humble when next we open our Bibles to Psalm 10?or to chapter 10 or verse 10 anywhere else in the inspired set of Books." Philip C. Fischer, Review for Religious, Vol. 66, 2007 (Sanford Lakoff)

Every commentary on the Book of Psalms has had to face the issue that many of these prayers commemorate and celebrate: wrath and vengeance. What is needed is not ingenious exegetical rationalization of ancient texts, but the kind of transformation into a work of piety and art that Nan Merrill provides.

This is a great addition to your collection of Psalms, and I have found it very useful for Lectio or for prayer groups. If you are occasionally overwhelmed by some of the graphic descriptions of animosity you often find in the Psalms, this text balances them out very nicely indeed, and gives you a new appreciation of the emotional depth and universality they express (some authors that when the Psalms speak of hatred or revenge, they are actually speaking of our own mental environment and not to external enemies). Still, there are times when expressions like "May they dash your babies against a rock" or "There is not one good person left" are neither welcome nor productive, IMHO, and this includes mixed company like prayer groups. On the other hand some of the language gets a bit cloying at times, and some of the translations seem a bit stretched, so I would suggest using it in conjunction with other translations (I read a Psalm each day, and find it is a welcome addition for some of the more hostile Psalms or emotions). It's just a nice translation to

read when you are feeling overwhelmingly positive and want something to help you along.

The "user friendly" translation of the Psalms allows for more reading aloud to younger audiences as well as to those who are ill and who do not need / will not understand the Dominating Judgmental image of God but instead need to encounter the Compassionate Love image of the Divine. Highly recommend for audiences of mixed religious backgrounds. I used it during a medical/wellness CEU class and the feedback was that this was a good translation for a non-religious group.

I use this to prepare for singing the responsorial psalm at mass. Great help!

I highly recommend this very spiritual collection.

This is a meditative rendering of the Psalms which reveals their heart of love, which is encouraging. But in revising or removing their primitive and patriarchal passages, any who appreciate how the Psalms deal with the raw stuff of our own imperfect spiritual lives are likely to find the book somewhat lacking.

I use this book in my morning devotions daily. It is a beautiful interpretation of the beloved Book of Psalms. Nan C. Merrill is very talented.

This is a wonderful rendering of the Psalms. It has become my prayer book, my liturgy of the hours. It speaks to the very heart of the spiritual life in its universal wisdom. I only wish it would be rereleased in a more formal packaging complete with a ribbon. If you had no other spiritual practice than reading a few of these Psalms a day, it would probably be enough. This is a real classic of the spiritual life in prayer.

This is my favorite book for daily reflection. I have always loved the psalms and used them countless times in my work as a hospice chaplain. Now retired, I continue to turn to this book for my morning meditation and journaling. Nan Merrill's imagery of fear as the enemy and Love as the divine source of creation resonates with me deeply. This is a book to savor slowly, allowing its healing wisdom to unfold in your soul verse by verse, day by day.

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