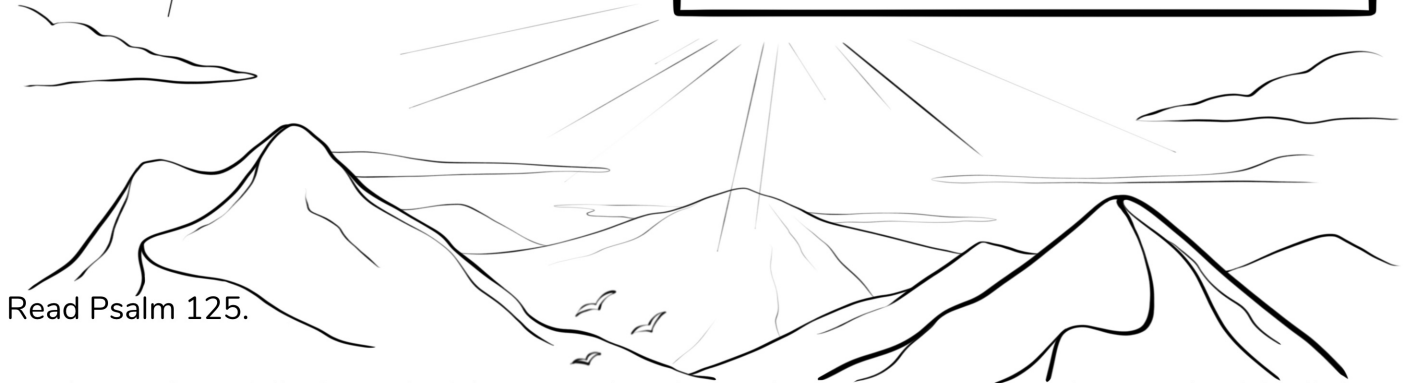




# KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SUNDAY, JULY 30TH, 2023

## BIBLE LESSON: PSALM 125



Read Psalm 125.

This Psalm is full of wonderful images that depict the staying power and strength of God's love, as well as the resulting stable faith of those who trust in the Lord.

In verse 2 where it says, "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people", you can almost see God's arms surrounding the Israelites in a protective embrace. In verse 1 the Psalmist describes God's faithful people as immovable as a mountain. He does not refer to just any mountain, he specifically compares them to Mount Zion.

The Concordia Study Bible explains that Zion comes from a Jewish term for defending a fortress and was the name given to the hill positioned in front of the temple where God was present among His people and so by extension Zion can mean all God's people.

After understanding the meanings and the imagery, we can therefore hear in the Psalm: Those who trust in the Lord are like a mountain of God's people, surrounded by the protecting arm of God, immovable and strengthened by grace forever.

We are also part of Mount Zion, or the mountain of God's people. In the last two verses of today's Gospel lesson from Matthew 13: 44-52, Matthew shares Jesus' desire for us to immerse ourselves in the Word and see ourselves and our history in the Old Testament as well as the New. Jesus asked if the disciples understood His parables and when they confirmed they did understand He concluded: "every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old".



### Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in heaven. Thank you for making us a part of your people, by sending your Son Jesus to save us and make us members of your family and a Church that will live forever. Please send your Holy Spirit to help keep us strong in the faith you have given us so that we too may remain a part of Mount Zion. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.