



Psalm 150

This entire psalm is a doxology that not only closes the fifth and final volume of the collected psalms, but also closes the entire Book of Psalms. It is an eloquent and passionate cry to all creation to give Yahweh the praise due to Him. **Praise the Lord** (vs. 1a) is where we get the Hebrew for *Hallelujah*, meaning a joyous praise in song to boast in God! And how fitting to make this connection to Easter!

Praise Him in His mighty expanse (vs. 1c) speaks to God's deserving unlimited praise because He alone is unlimited in His greatness. For every reason **give Him praise** (vs. 2). And with every possible musical expression, use it also to **praise the LORD** (vs. 3-5). And **Let everything that has breath praise the LORD** (vs. 6). The very breath that God gives us should be used to praise Him.

The Book of Psalms begins with God's blessing on the righteous (1:1) and concludes with all of creation blessing the God. This psalm starts and ends with Hallelujah.

On so many levels, this Easter parallels the first Easter 2000 years ago. From the time of Jesus' betrayal, suffering, death, and burial, His followers also quarantined themselves — locked themselves away, "social distancing" from the other believers gathered in Jerusalem. The One they had imagined to be the Messiah and Savior of the world had been arrested, punished, crucified, and was buried. They were stunned! Their hopes were dashed, and they were afraid they could suffer a similar fate. So, they too were hiding and quarantining themselves.

But the Easter story includes resurrection Sunday – Hallelujah! The Risen Christ said, "I am alive and because I live you live also." The Good News of Easter and the Risen Christ offer us peace in these uncertain times. "Do not be afraid" are the other words spoken by Jesus at His first Easter appearance. Let us remember the sacrifice He willingly paid for us all. What amazing Love, and because He lives, we too are restored to be in His Fellowship – Hallelujah!