

[Psalm 146](#) opens and closes with a call to praise. The Psalter calls on the people of God to lift up praises to the God of Jacob, and then, as if the thought of calling on others to praise God leads to a spontaneous combustion of praise within the psalter's self, the psalter calls on their own soul to praise God.

The call to praise God in [Psalm 146](#) is based on trust. The people of God can praise God in all circumstances of life, because God can be trusted. God can be trusted because as creator and sustainer of the universe, God possesses the power and the will to help God's people. But the psalter also emphasized that God can be trusted, because throughout time God has entered into history to rescue and liberate the most vulnerable of people.

- 7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets prisoners free,
- 8 the Lord gives sight to the blind,  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord loves the righteous.
- 9 The Lord watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

So, the psalter's call for the people to praise God is not just rooted in abstract theology. The psalter's call to praise is rooted in the concrete experience of God's people. When God's people became vulnerable, God moved to rescue and save God's people.

In the midst of the Covid19 pandemic crisis, both God's people and all people have become more and more vulnerable. We are vulnerable to the ravages of the Covid19 disease and vulnerable to the ravages that this disease has had and may continue to have on our economic, social, and political systems. More and more people are becoming infected, more and more people are losing their lives, and more and more people are losing employment and hope. With each passing day we become more and more vulnerable.

At the heart of this Psalm is the question: In whom do you trust? Do you trust in the Princes (political leaders) or in God? Our political leaders are frail human beings who are subject to death and whose will does not exceed their own existence. Our political leaders are people who are too often driven by party agendas, rather than the good of the most vulnerable of people. Our political

leaders are also people who seem to struggle with speaking truth in the midst of this crisis. Our God, on the other hand, can be trusted. Our God can be trusted to care for us and all people when we are at our most vulnerable, because throughout time our God has moved in the midst of sufferings, sustaining people. Acts of deliverance reflect God's intrusions into our broken and suffering world.

So, in whom do you trust? Trusting in God does not mean that we become reckless and nor does trusting in God mean that we cease to care for other people, simply trusting God to care for them. Rather, trusting in God means that in grace and love we become the presence of God's compassion, justice, and peace to all people who are vulnerable and hurting in the midst of this crisis.