



ST NINIAN'S UNITING
CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 9TH 2026
PRAYERS AND REFLECTION

Psalm 119:65-72

Teth (v) is the ninth letter of the Hebrew alphabet.)

Hidden Potential: Ancient rabbis interpret the shape of the letter (v) as an inverted pot or a womb. This visual imagery represents **hidden good**—suggesting that God's blessings or formative trials (like the clay in a potter's hands) carry beauty and purpose beneath the surface.

The Root of "Good": Teth is the first letter of tov, the Hebrew word for "good" or "goodness". Throughout Psalm 119:65–72, the psalmist relies on this theme, frequently praising God for His goodness, even in the midst of affliction.



- ⁶⁵ You have handled Your servant well,
O **Eternal One**, as You promised.
- ⁶⁶ Help me to learn good judgment and knowledge
because I believe Your commandments.
- ⁶⁷ Before I had trouble, I strayed from the true path, the path of righteousness,
but now I live according to Your word.
- ⁶⁸ You are truly good, and Your acts are too;
teach me what You require.
- ⁶⁹ The proud smear me with their lies;
I will keep Your instructions wholeheartedly.
- ⁷⁰ Their hearts are dull and callous;
I am delighted to study Your teaching.
- ⁷¹ It is a good thing that I was humbled
because it helped me learn Your limits.
- ⁷² Your teachings are more valuable to me
than a fortune in gold and silver.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving Lord Creator of the universe, you have shown me your goodness through your Word. Draw me into the circle of your teaching, grant me understanding, and renewed hope. Let the sweetness of your commandments outshine every good experience in this world and let my struggles become teachings that brings your bright light into my busy and stressful life drawing us closer together. May I cling to your promises and walk faithfully in your light, today and always. Through your Son, amen.

PRAYER POINTS OF THANKSGIVING

- Thank God for faithfulness and constant provisions
- Thank God for mercy, grace and steadfast love
- Thank God for creativity and revelation through the Word

PRAYER POINTS OF PRAISE

- Praise the **Eternal God** of creation, forgiveness and miracles
- Praise the **Eternal God** for declaring who God is and what God has shown us in Christ.
- Praise the **Eternal God** for being present in celebrating the goodness of life

PRAYER POINTS OF CONFESSION

- Lord, forgive my harsh judgements of others without taking the splinter out of my own eye.
- Lord, forgive me for missed opportunities to love and show respectful kindness to the weak and vulnerable
- Lord, forgive me for being anxious, fearful of the future, lacking trust that you know what's best for me.

WORDS OF GRACE

In grace, God accepts you, renews you, and calls you to live in love and justice. Go from this time of reflection in peace, confident that you are forgiven and empowered to walk in newness of life.

Amen

REFLECTION

There is a traditional view that Psalm 119 was written by King David to teach his son Solomon the Hebrew alphabet, but we can see it as a way our lives are enriched by keeping as close as possible to the unwavering Word of God, especially in times of uncertainty. David starts with an affirmation: *you have*

handled your with your servant well, O Eternal One as you promised. This isn't naivety but seasoned trust firmly anchored in the conviction that God's dealings of truth, judgments, and commands, are for our benefits even when we're challenged by them.

Prayerful dependence on what this section of the psalm is asking of God: Instruction through teaching of good judgment and knowledge because of a belief in the commandments. He's looking beyond the surface level of faith as he's seeking deeper learning. God's Word isn't just a set of rules but a living guide for life with God. For us today, it calls for daily dependence we're asking God to open our minds, shape our desires, and give us discerning hearts so our choices are a reflection of the wisdom of God.

Suffering as a sanctifying teacher: in the words *before I had trouble, I strayed from the true path, the path of righteousness, but now I live according to Your word.* Troubles can reveal where we have relied on comfort, control, or reputation more than on God. Yet David doesn't just endure suffering, he allows it to teach him and draw him into deeper faithfulness. In our own challenges whatever they look like we're also invited to let suffering refine our devotion rather than allow them to weaken it.

Steadfast, joyful obedience amid slander, contrast the slanderer, who spread lies, David keeps God's teachings wholeheartedly. Faithfulness under pressure becomes a quiet but powerful witness. A true heart can't be forced into falsehoods, a true heart with God remains steady by happily continuing to follow God's commandments despite the occasions when others may misrepresent us. Our integrity shows where our deepest treasure lies.

The surpassing value of God's Word, *'Your teachings are more valuable to me than a fortune in gold and silver'*. Wealth itself isn't condemned, but its appeal loses its shine when placed next to God's expectation of us. When we fear scarcity or long for success, the words in this psalm have the capacity to redirect our gaze away from what doesn't last towards what brings everlasting life, our obedience, God's wisdom and spiritual insight.

This psalm is an invitation to pray. Lord, teach me, loosen my grip on lesser comforts help me endure with integrity; and make your Word my priceless guide. Like the psalmist, may each of us discover that the path of obedience, though costly, is worth far more than any worldly riches can offer.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Lord, teach me wisdom and grant me understanding. You have shown your goodness to me and now let your mercy comfort me and give me discernment

to guide others gently. When my heart longs for understanding, help me to use it to serve my neighbours with compassion. Show mercy to those who need hope, as you use me as a vessel to offer them your comfort and compassion. Let your love refine my life, until many gather in praising you today and always. In your name amen.

