

Psalm 26 (NRSV)

Vindicate me, O Lord,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

Prove me, O Lord, and try me;
test my heart and mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;
I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O Lord,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.
Do not sweep me away with sinners,
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,
those in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.

But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.
My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the Lord.

For Reflection and Prayer:

Was there a word, phrase or image which caught your attention you as you listened to or slowly read the text? Quietly savor this with Jesus.

Notice any felt sense that seems to emerge as you linger with this passage. It might come as a bodily feeling, emotion, metaphor, picture, gesture or sound. See if you can describe it and simply be with it with patient curiosity. Be open to whatever more might emerge.

Perhaps you might want to draw, color or journal your conversation.

As the time of prayer comes to a close, share some quiet moments with Jesus, simply resting safely in his presence.

Psalm 26 (Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill)

Speak on my behalf, O Beloved,
for I would choose the path
that leads back Home,
trusting in your love, without reserve.
May my heart be as your Heart:
May my mind be as your Mind.
may your steadfast love guide me
As I live according to your Will,
You, O Counselor, are my strength
and my guide; so
I choose the path of peace and wholeness.

I walk with friends of integrity,
and associate with those
who live in truth;
I love the company of faith-filled people,
and count myself among those
who make your Word their own.

Cleanse my heart in innocence
that I might childlike be,
Singing songs of thanksgiving
and proclaiming the Beloved's way.

O Loving Presence, I cherish your
dwelling place, my heart;
O, that I might radiate Love Divine.
Keep me always in your presence,
Ever-ready to praise your Name.
Make me holy, complete in You,
Write my name among the saints.

For I choose the path of peace and wholeness;
The Counselor is my strength and my guide.
Standing with equanimity in heaven's
blessed company,
I shall know Love and Peace
beyond the world's understanding.
Blessed are You, O my Beloved!