

Psalm 103:1-4, 8-11

The Lord is kind and merciful

- Bless the LORD, my soul; all my being, bless His holy name!
- ² Bless the LORD, my soul; and do not forget all His gifts,

- ³ Who pardons all your sins, and heals all your ills,
- ⁴ Who redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with mercy and compassion,
- ⁶ The LORD does righteous deeds, brings justice to all the oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known His ways to Moses, to the Israelites His deeds.
- ⁸ Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
- ¹¹ For as the heavens tower over the earth, so His mercy towers over those who fear Him.

In this psalm we hear David urging everyone to praise God for all of God's goodness.

As you re-read this psalm you will notice that the first few verses not only extol

God's virtues but also caution His followers to not forget.

Don't let your worship become common place, something you do on Sunday, no, never forget all the benefits God has given to you.

When Abraham Lincoln was the president a mother came to Lincoln to beg for the pardon of her son who was condemned to hang for treason.

In his compassion Lincoln granted the pardon with these words, "Still, I wish we could give him just a little bit of a hanging."

I know a couple who experienced a little bit of a hanging.

Shortly after the birth of their first son he was

diagnosed with spinal meningitis.

The prognosis was not good, death in three hours.

God reached into their lives over the next 6 weeks and the child survived.

Over the years that followed the boy was a constant reminder of the grace bestowed upon the family by God.

Today's psalm reminds us to remember God's presence among us and not to become complacent in our worship.