Final Performance Task Options for Unit 8

Important Information for All Three Options

The following are the main ideas you are to understand from this unit. They should appear in this final performance task so your teacher can assess whether you have learned the most essential content:

- The Psalms are songs sung to God in praise, thanksgiving, lament, and petition.
- The Psalms reflect various periods of Israel's history and the covenant relationship with God.
- Some psalms refer to a new age and leadership, in which the Covenant will be restored through a messiah.
- Hebrew poetry includes various literary techniques, including parallelism and figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

Option 1: Psalm Story

Choose one of the psalms from which you will create a dramatic narrative that describes fictional events the author has experienced that inspired this psalm. Your story will also illustrate your understanding of the role of the psalms in the liturgical and historical life of Israel. Include the following in your narrative:

- the psalm itself
- a creative, fictional, story from which the psalm was created
- a clear understanding of the psalm and its message

Your story should be well organized, include various characters and conflict, and be based on a specific event in salvation history. Draw on your notes and handouts from previous units to add to the setting, characters, and so forth. Your story should be three to four pages, double-spaced, and typed. You may choose to include a visual representation of a scene from your story with the final performance task.

Option 2: Psalm Theme

For this option, pick a psalm, identify its message, and find three songs from approved musicians or three pieces of art that convey the same theme as the psalm. You may choose to create a combination of music and art that illustrates the theme of the psalm for your presentation. Music and art must be approved by your teacher.

To explain the connection between the psalm and your choices, write an analysis of the psalm and identify the message or theme of each piece of art or music. Include the following:

- Analysis of Psalm
  - o What is it saying?

  - o What category of psalm is it?

  - o Does it allude to events from salvation history? How?

- Message or Theme of Each Piece of Art or Music
  - What is the message of the lyric or art?

  - How is it similar to the psalm?

  - What emotion is conveyed? How?

If you choose to connect the psalm to music, you must bring in one full piece or an appropriate section of music to play during your presentation. For art, bring in copies to display as in a gallery or to show in a PowerPoint presentation.

Your analysis must be typed double-spaced and illustrate your understanding of the Psalms and the interpretative skills explored in this unit.

Option 3: An Illustrated Psalm

Convey a psalm's theme and emotions in original artwork. You may use any media, such as crayons, watercolor, and clay. You may also use any form, such as mosaic, stained glass, collage, mobile, diorama, or poster. Follow these steps:

- Choose a psalm from these favorites listed here. If you prefer to use a psalm that is not listed, check with your teacher to be sure it is one that will not be analyzed in class.
  - Psalm 8 (the astronomer's psalm)

  - Psalm 23 (the Good Shepherd = Jesus)

  - Psalm 51 (a penitential psalm)

  - Psalm 91 (a soldier's psalm)

  - Psalm 121 (God, my guardian)

  - Psalm 139 (God's constant care)

  - Psalm 148 (song of praise)

- Research and reflect on the psalm to determine its category, meaning, and mood. Take notes on the psalm as the basis for your artistic presentation and written analysis.
- Decide what aspects of the psalm you want to convey and what media and form you will use.
- Create your artwork and give it a title.
- Write a paper that contains the following information:
  - the psalm itself

  - an explanation of why you chose it

  - an analysis of the psalm, including its background, category, meaning, and poetic features

  - an explanation of how your artwork expresses the psalm