



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Scripture

Since this week is the week of the National Day of Prayer (Thursday, May 7) let us focus our Scripture reflections on what the Bible says about repentance.

Reflections on Repentance:

II Chronicles 7:13-14

¹³ When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Isaiah 30:15

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling.

Isaiah 55:6-7

⁶ "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Jeremiah 18:7-8

⁷ If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it,
⁸ and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

Jeremiah 24:7

I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I come
And I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wondering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in the blood washed linen, how I'll sing Thy wondrous grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, take my ransomed soul away
Send Thine angels now to carry, me to realms of endless day.

("Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" words by Robert Robinson and Martin Madan, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray.

There are six or seven Psalms that are called Penitential Psalms or Psalms of repentance. We will use three of them this week to guide our prayers for repentance for ourselves, our families, our church, and our nation. Psalm 51 is the most famous, David's prayer after his sin with Bathsheba.

Psalm 51:1-19

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
- ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
- ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- ⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- ¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.