



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:

Ezekiel 18:21-23

²¹ But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²² None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. ²³ Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

Joel 2:12-14

¹² "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him,

Jonah 3:10

When God saw what [Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Zechariah 1:3-4

³ Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. ⁴ Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the Lord.

Luke 5:31-32

³¹ Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luke 13:3

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Luke 15:7

I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Luke 24:46-48

⁴⁶ Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

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.]

Depth of Mercy (Another great old Charles Wesley hymn)

Depth of mercy, can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear?
Me, the chief of sinners, spare?

I have long withstood His grace:
Long provoked Him to His face;
Would not hearken to His calls;
Grieved Him by a thousand falls.

I my Master have denied,
I afresh have crucified,
Oft profaned His hallowed name,
Put Him to an open shame.

There for me the Savior stands,
Shows His wounds and spreads His hands:
God is love! I know, I feel;
Jesus weeps, but loves me still!

Heaven find me on my knees
Hear my soul in passioned pleas
Depth of mercy, can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?

Now incline me to repent!
Let me now my sins lament!
Deeply my revolt deplore!
Weep, believe and sin no more.

("Depth of Mercy" words by Charles Wesley, 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 25:6-22

⁶ Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

- ¹¹ For your name's sake, O Lord,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
- ¹² Who is the man who fears the Lord?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.
- ¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- ¹⁴ The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.
- ¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the Lord,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- ¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
- ¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
- ¹⁹ Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.
- ²⁰ Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
- ²¹ May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.
- ²² Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.