



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:

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Romans 2:4-5

⁴ Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

II Corinthians 7:10

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Hebrews 12:5-7

⁵ "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons.

I Peter 1:14-16

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

II Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

I John 1:8-9

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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.]

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

("Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" words by Augustus Toplady, 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 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 38:1-11, 17-22

- ¹ O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath!
- ² For your arrows have sunk into me,
and your hand has come down on me.
- ³ There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation;
there is no health in my bones because of my sin.
- ⁴ For my iniquities have gone over my head;
like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.
- ⁵ My wounds stink and fester
because of my foolishness,
- ⁶ I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
all the day I go about mourning.
- ⁷ For my sides are filled with burning,
and there is no soundness in my flesh.
- ⁸ I am feeble and crushed;
I groan because of the tumult of my heart.
- ⁹ O Lord, all my longing is before you;
my sighing is not hidden from you.
- ¹⁰ My heart throbs; my strength fails me,
and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.
- ¹¹ My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague,
and my nearest kin stand far off.
- ¹⁷ For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever before me.
- ¹⁸ I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.
- ¹⁹ But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.
- ²⁰ Those who render me evil for good accuse me
because I follow after good.
- ²¹ Do not forsake me, O Lord!
O my God, be not far from me!
- ²² Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!