



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

Reflections from the NT on how God brings good out of sin and evil.

Luke 22:21-22 “Behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table.²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!”

Acts 4:27-28 “... for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.”

Romans 5:3-5 We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:28 We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

II Corinthians 1:8-9 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

II Corinthians 4:16-18 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

II Corinthians 12:8-10 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.

James 1:2-4, 12 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

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.]

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *[Refrain]*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *[Refrain]*

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Prayer

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

Holy Father, we gratefully acknowledge that you are God and there is no other. There is no god as great as you and all other gods are nothing before you. We rejoice in great confidence that the evil one is not like you, he is not eternal, he is not all powerful, he is a creature under your sovereign control. It is cause for worship that evil is not equal with good, that you are not engaged in a battle with an enemy who is your equal. You laugh at every principality and power that sets itself up against you.

Holy Father, thank you that no matter what happens in this world, you foreknew it all and you have permitted it all because you have made it to work for your glory and for your redemptive purposes. We rest in the truth that you are at work in all things, in all nations and governments, in all people, places and things, in all natural events and in all manmade events.

So now hear our prayers for all the evil and sin in our world. Show yourself mighty and strong in using, changing or removing all evil in our world, in our nation, in our state, in our churches, in our homes and families, and in our own hearts.

We pray you will prevail over all immorality, sexual perversion and pornography, abortion, adultery, murder, theft, slander and lies, injustice, disobedience and rebellion. We pray you will expose and discipline all that is ungodly, unrighteous, unholy, profane and impure.

As we pray for the evil in our world we must confess that there is evil in our own hearts. In the name of Jesus and by the power of your Holy Spirit in us purge us of every fleshly defilement, of every sinful thought, of every wrong ambition, of every carnal desire, of anything that sets itself up against you and your holy will.

Enable us to face each day in confident faith and trust, resting in the truth of your Holy and unchanging Word, that whatever trials or troubles we face, you face them with us and that you who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. Yours is the victory, yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.