



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

Isaiah 55:1-13 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
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.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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.]

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should rest upon God's word;
And our lives would be thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.

("There's a Wilderness in God's Mercy" words by Frederick William Faber CCL #358926)

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, the great prophet Isaiah wisely urges us to "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near." And David said, "Earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1).

We seek so many things in this world, we fill our bodies with good food, we fill our minds with vain entertainment, we fill our time with selfish pursuits, but sadly we seldom seek you and you alone, certainly not with the earnestness, diligence and perseverance of the saints of old. Grant us a dissatisfaction with all the things of this earth that distract us from you and gives us a hunger and thirst for the things of the Lord.

Thank you for Jesus, who makes straight the path to seeking and finding you, who have opened the door to the greatest treasures for our soul. Thank you for your Holy Spirit who gives us holy desires and draws our hearts to you. Thank you for the promise, "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

Enable us to rise above our thoughts and ways to think your thoughts and walk in your ways. Decrease the distance between our thoughts and your thoughts. Show us your truth in your Word, show us your righteousness in Christ's righteousness.

As Paul prayed, so we pray for ourselves:

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give us the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, enlightening the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope to which you have called us, what are the riches of your glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of your power toward us who believe (Ephesians 1:17-19). Amen and Amen.