



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 Scripture on Restitution as a part of True Repentance.

Leviticus 6:1-7 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against the Lord by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor or has found something lost and lied about it, swearing falsely—in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby— if he has sinned and has realized his guilt and will restore what he took by robbery or what he got by oppression or the deposit that was committed to him or the lost thing that he found or anything about which he has sworn falsely, he shall restore it in full and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to whom it belongs on the day he realizes his guilt. And he shall bring to the priest as his compensation to the Lord a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent, for a guilt offering. And the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord, and he shall be forgiven for any of the things that one may do and thereby become guilty.”

Numbers 5:5-10 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel, When a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with the Lord, and that person realizes his guilt, he shall confess his sin that he has committed. And he shall make full restitution for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong. But if the man has no next of kin to whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution for wrong shall go to the Lord for the priest, in addition to the ram of atonement with which atonement is made for him. And every contribution, all the holy donations of the people of Israel, which they bring to the priest, shall be his. Each one shall keep his holy donations: whatever anyone gives to the priest shall be his.”

Psalms 37:21 The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives.

Matthew 3:8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Matthew 5:23-24 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Luke 19:8-10 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Acts 26:20 I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

Romans 13:7-8 Pay to all what is owed to them ... Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

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.]

Prelude from Sunday morning worship service.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free.

Refrain: Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion
For more than conqu'rors we are! *Refrain:*

His Word shall not fail you, He promised;
Believe Him and all will be well;
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell! *Refrain:*

("Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" Words by Helen Howarth Lemmel (1922), Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

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.

[With all news about Covid and the governors announcements, this is still a timely prayer.]

Holy Father, we boldly acknowledge your sovereign power over all the earth and we humbly acknowledge our dependence on you. This virus has brought us face to face with our frailty. We have fulfilled your mandate to subdue the earth, we have harnessed the wind, water and sun. We have sent men to the moon, but we are reminded in these days how powerless we still are. So we repent of all our independence, self-sufficiency and pride.

Holy Father, we also acknowledge that we live in a broken, fallen, needy world. The beauty of your creation is marred by our sin and all its effects. Like Satan himself, this virus comes to steal, kill and destroy. We, like your Son, should weep at the unnaturalness of sickness and death in your world. As creation groans for the restoration of all things, so we groan for the day of resurrection and the glory that awaits in heaven (Romans 8:18-23).

We pray earnestly for the heroic medical doctors, nurses, and health care professionals who are putting their lives on the line for their neighbors. May you give them strength and physical immunity during this time, so they can help push back against this virus.

We pray for the scientists and disease experts who are working feverishly on vaccines and testing. Lord, we thank you for gifting them with knowledge and wisdom we don't have. We pray for their endurance, for breakthroughs, and for resources.

Holy Father, move in the hearts of our public officials. As you have instructed us in your Word, we earnestly beseech you on behalf of our president, vice president, congress, governors, mayors, and local officials. We pray you guide them with wisdom and strength and discernment. May they turn to and acknowledge you as the source of their authority and wisdom and seek repentance and faith for themselves.

Jesus, you are the Great Physician, so we pray for healing for the victims of COVID-19. You are the Creator, with power over the creation, so we pray for COVID-19 to be destroyed. Spirit of God, you are the Comforter, so please comfort our troubled souls. Father, may your perfect love cast out fear. And if we are called to suffer in any way physically, emotionally or financially grant us your grace to bear it patiently without grumbling, knowing that all things come for your hand for the good of our souls.

We also pray for the people in our nation and the nations of the world to be humbled and turn to you in repentance and faith. May you be exalted among the nations of the world (Psalm 46:10). We know you are the Prince of peace, Lord of lords, the King of kings. We praise you for your goodness and your mercy. And we ask this all in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.”

(Parts of this prayer taken from erlc.com)