

Devotion for Pentecost 25
Third Sunday of End Time: Saints Triumphant

Psalm 16

**Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. I said to the Lord,
“You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”**

As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.

The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods.

I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places, surely I have a delightful inheritance.

I will praise the Lord who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure.

Because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

**You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Hebrews 10:1-39

Living in the Assurance of Salvation

Why is there no longer a need for offerings for sin?

Why is it necessary for Christians to meet together for worship, prayer and fellowship?

What is our confidence in the struggles and trials of life?

Mark 13:1-13

Signs of Jesus' Return

How can we avoid being lead astray as await Jesus' return?

What should we do when we face hostility for Jesus' sake?

How can we endure to the end and be saved?

Saints Triumphant

Psalm 126

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”

In days past men called ‘reapers,’ would advance upon the standing grain and lay it low with long sharp knives called ‘scythes.’ Others would follow the reapers to gather and bind the fallen stalks into sheaves and set them into stooks to dry and await threshing. Stooking is such a lost art that my computer doesn’t know how to spell it. Now expensive combines complete in a matter of hours, what once took days to finish. The old hymn “Bringing In the Sheaves” captures the spirit of those bye gone days, when men and women would gather the harvest from the fields at the end of summer and looks to the greatest ingathering at the return of Christ.

Psalm 126 uses the imagery of seed time and harvest to give us hope in times of sorrow. Set within the imagery of Judah’s sad exile to Babylon and seventy-year captivity in Babylonia, it expresses the joy of those who experienced an unimaginably good reversal of fortunes, from tears to joy. Sometimes things go from bad to good! We all have reasons to weep. Life has no shortage of sadness, misfortune and cruel twists of fate. Yet we remember that in Christ, God is always able to surprise us with joy. We remember that in Christ, we have good hope in all things and have reason for joy even in our tears.

In the imagery of this Psalm our tears are likened to seed, which in the fullness of time, God will turn into a harvest of joy and gladness. A great and positive reversal of fortunes is coming. In fact, the first fruits are with us even now. From that perspective, St. Paul writes: “*I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*” There is a big harvest of joy and gladness to come at the return of Jesus and the harvest at the end of the age. St. John saw, heard and in his Revelation recorded words of indescribable joy. “*Behold, the dwelling of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes...*”

God is with us even now in Christ as we sow in tears, working to transform tears into laughter and sighs into shouts of joy. Even now as we sow in tears, in Christ we always have reason to rejoice and give thanks. God works in and through all things, including unwanted events and storms of life, even during the sufferings of a pandemic, to accomplish His good, our eternal salvation. At all times and in every life situation, He finds a way to meet our needs, to support and sustain our lives and faith, so that His ultimate purpose for us may be fulfilled, our share in the harvest of eternal life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Bringing In the Sheaves (CCLI#453681)

**Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness, sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest and the time of reaping, we shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.**

**Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves; We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves; We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.**

**Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows, Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest and the labour ended, We shall come rejoicing Bring in the sheaves.**

**Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves; We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves; We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.**

**Going for with weeping, sowing for the Master, Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over He will bid us welcome, We shall come rejoicing, bring in the sheaves.**

**Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves; We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves; We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.**

Prayer

Blessed Jesus, you have won the victory over sin, death and devil by your sinless life and sacrificial death. You share your triumph with us in your glorious resurrection, the first-fruits of all believers. Keep us in your grace as we await your return in triumph. Help us walk together in love and support one another as members of your holy church on earth. Bless us to endure that with all your saints we may receive the crown of eternal life you earned for us. In your name. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Benediction Psalm 33:22

"Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you."

Bible Knowledge Quiz

What was the name of the young evangelist whom Aquila and Priscilla instructed more accurately about the faith?
What trade did Paul share in common with Aquila and Priscilla?
What did King Saul's armour bearer refuse to do when Saul was wounded and dying on the field of battle?

Answers to last Week's Quiz

Two small copper coins (Mark 12:42).
From the mouth of a fish (Matthew 17:24-27).
A whip (John 2:13-17).

