

Silver and Gold Have We None



TONY LEE 2007

The Compass Center

The Church of Steadfast Love

Advent 2023

During the Season of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ. We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and we remember that in him the Kingdom of God came to earth. Now we wait expectantly for his return, not as the baby that was once worshipped in the manger, but as our Savior that will come again and restore all things unto himself.

As Christmas approaches the craziness of our lives traditionally increases as gift buying and parties are added to our daily routines, but not everyone has the comforts that many of us enjoy without giving them a second thought. It is for this reason that we call our devotional, "Silver and Gold Have We None." Those whom we serve have not the material possessions that our society prizes, but they have the wonderful gifts of hope and promise. And we, those who find ourselves on the streets this holiday season, in the shelters, and securely housed, would like to share of ourselves with you this season.

May you find this devotional useful for increasing and deepening faith as you reflect on the Living Word, and on our humble insights.

Peace be with you this Advent season and throughout the coming year. Come Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Pr. Kristy

1st Sunday in Advent/Primer Domingo en Adviento

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Sounds good. Don't forsake the Lord. Because he is coming and you don't know when, midnight, midday, you never know. It means I don't want to mess up, I don't want to keep doing drugs and stuff, I haven't done them in a long time, but that's what it means to me. That's a BIG Reminder. If it weren't for Jesus, I wouldn't be alive. My hope for others is to get right with the Lord. That means doing the right thing: don't do drugs, don't drink, and don't forsake your brother or sister, or anyone get right with everyone. That's what it means to me!

-Ken Nelson

Monday, December 4/Lunes 4 de Diciembre

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

1Co 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 We have been enriched in every way with Thanksgiving with all kinds of speech and with all kinds of knowledge that Christ is amongst us with his testimony as is evident in the Bible. Because of Gods grace we do not lack any spiritual gifts. As we celebrate this holiday season let us be thankful and let us be firm to the end so that we are blameless on the day our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God has called us all to fellowship with each other through church and prayer and let us hope this holiday season brings much peace and joy to you and your family especially with the war and turmoil in the world.

-Dean McBee

Por generosidad, porque Dios nos da el Espíritu de generosidad y nos da la gracia de servir porque así es la paz para nuestro Dios.

Out of generosity, because God gives us the Spirit of generosity and gives us the grace to serve because that is what peace is like for our God.

-Margarito Perez

Tuesday, December 5/Martes, 5 de Diciembre

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth 2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! 3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. 4 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. 6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Ps 80:17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. 18 Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. 19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

In this Psalm they want to be saved so they are trying to get straight with God so that they will be saved. Asking for forgiveness and the Lord not to be mad with them anymore.

I know God is there for me and answers prayers because my prayers are answered a lot. I am really sick and I need God's forgiveness too so I will be saved since I am human, I am a sinner. That thought, word and deed. With God's gifts of grace and communion I know forgiveness is mine.

-David Small

Wednesday, December 6/Miercoles, 6 de Diciembre

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—² " as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.⁷ There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Reading of (Isaiah 64:1-9) is directed within the revelation concerning a prayer for mercy and help toward each and all of us, meaning the Lords compassion toward us is within his mercy and grace within and through all of us Praise God Amen, Hallelujah.

-Danny Ray Lee

Thursday, December 7/Jueves, 7 de Diciembre

2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

This devotion reminds me to be patient – a thousand years is but one day to our Lord and he/she is not slow to promise. God is perfect and lacks nothing. He/she is patient with me and loves me for who I am.

The day of the Lord will come, none of us knows when this time will come.

I seek peace, love and kindness. I'll be patient in waiting for the new earth and heaven – all will be restored and new.

-Sally Villaluz Ghormley

Friday, December 8/Viernes, 8 de Diciembre

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. 9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. 12 The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

“You have been favorable to your land.” Referring to all of God’s land? Israel? God has forgiven our sins even though we’ve sinned against him.

Covered all sin.

Your salvation is given to those who fear you. We should remember the past when God was good to his people.

We should expect the same.

Jesus died on the cross to cover our sin.

God raised Jesus from the dead.

-Mark B

Saturday, December 9/Sabado, 9 de Diciembre

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

I think what is being said here is about how the Love of God is coming into the world through Jesus Christ. The passage says that this love is Eternal, despite how the things of the world, including our own bodies, pass away. Though, the good news is that this Eternal Love is for us, and this is revealed in how Jesus came into the world, died, and was resurrected.

There are also messages here for us to both share and receive the joy in this Eternal Love. Sometimes we are down and need to hear this joy from others who are up. Sometimes we are up and need to share this joy with those who are down. And sometimes we need to be the one to provide this for ourselves. But we can always find this Love in God, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

-Charles Smith

2nd Sunday in Advent/La segunda domingo en Adviento

Mark 1:1-8

Mk 1:1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John the Baptist, and his message, are often not discussed a lot. We often forget that part of the message of the Gospel is repentance, a word many of us are probably uncomfortable with. It can signify that we are wrong or are doing wrong. But Johns message also give us hope, which many people do not have. It provides the hope that Christ provides us in the confession of and forgiveness of our sins We as Lutheran are told in the Small Catechism about confession, stating "First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness..... firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.". This is the hope we have are given.

But we also need to remember what "repentance" is. It's not just saying we're sorry for actions, but we should take actions showing that we have changed our way.

-Geoff Goucher

Monday, December 11/Lunes, 11 de Diciembre

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold^[a] of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall. ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. ⁴ One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. ⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. ⁶ Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. ⁷ Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! ⁸ “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek. ⁹ Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! ¹⁰ If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up. ¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. ¹² Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. ¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

I discovered a meditation

To find a safe place

Where I could go then I'm anxious, afraid, in pain

I followed the instructions and when I was done

I my safe space was being held in the hands of God

-Maggie Smith

Tuesday, December 12/Martes, 12 de Diciembre
Acts 11:1-18

11 Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers[a] criticized him, 3 saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8 But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us.[b] These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

No more Prejudice and Condemnation, only Obedience Being united to God !

The Gospel was enlarged to aliens from that time.

This is the text of Acts 11: 1-18.

-Masahiro

Wednesday, December 13/Miercoles, 13 de Diciembre

Luke 1:5-17

5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. 7 But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. 8 Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. 10 Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. 11 Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. 14 You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. 16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

"God-Lover," aka Translation "Those who love God" he wants to help people who love God to LOVE Him even more by knowing what He has done through Jesus, Also, you can fully rely on the things you have been taught about Jesus, God's Anointed One. Herod ruled Judea for the Roman Empire, Zacharias was serving as a priest in the Temple in Jerusalem as his father before him, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years he was serving as priest before God, as of his turn of duty. According to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. The whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there to him an angel of the Lord. When Zechariah saw him he was Terrified and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid," Zechariah your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.

-Von Rodriguez

Thursday, December 14/ Jueves, 14 de Diciembre

Psalm 126

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

³ The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

“We were like those who dream.” I like that because I am a dreamer. That’s the reason I moved to Seattle from Boston. And because of my dreams I have been able to have a place and walk around the neighborhood. I especially like walking by the reservoir at the park and the creek. I have been blessed with everything because of being a dreamer. People have helped me along the way and that has been my blessing too. Dreaming gives me hope. God is speaking to me. Believe in God and good things will happen sometimes, not always, but they do happen sometimes. Without dreaming I don’t know what you would have.

-Billy Levins

Friday, December 15/Viernes, 15 de Diciembre

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Isa 61:1 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Isa 61:8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

I love reading Isaiah. His text seems to always be so upbeat. This reading is no different. He reminds us, that with the Lord's help we can make things better for others. Those in need- those in pain. What an empowering message for all of us.

Isaiah goes on to say that the Lord loves justice. That through his works, justice will prevail. With this passage, I am encouraged to experience light, hope, and fairness in the Lord's work.

In the season of birth, let us remember. God watches out for us, if we just have faith.

-Harvey Smith

Saturday, December 16/Sabado, 16 de Diciembre

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing,
¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words
of prophets,
²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every
form of evil. ²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is
faithful, and he will do this.

Mirad que ninguno pague a otro mal por mal. Antes seguir siempre lo bueno unos para con otros y para con todos estad siempre gozos horad sin sesar dad gracias en todo por que esta es la gracia porque es la voluntad de Dios para con nosotros en Cristo Jesus. no apaguéis el espiritu no menos prescies las pofesias examinadolo todo retener lo bueno abstenenos de toda especie de moil y el miso Dios de paz; os santifique por completo y todo vuestro ser espiritu y alma se guardado irreprochable para la venida de nuestro Señor Jesu Cristo fiel es el que os llama el cualtambién lo hara.

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Keep vigilant and no one repay evil for evil. First, always follow what is good for each other and for everyone. Always be joyful. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in everything because this is grace, because it is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus. Do not extinguish the spirit. Do not reject poems. Examine everything, retain the good, abstain from all kinds of moil and keep God's peace; sanctify yourself completely and your whole being, spirit and soul. Kept blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus. Faithful is Christ, the one who is calling you, who will do it.

-Carlos R.

3rd Sunday in Advent/3 Domingo en Adviento

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

En este tiempo de Adviento somos invitados a dar testimonios de la Luz de Cristo a través de nuestra vida; y dar testimonio de la Luz no es tarea sencilla como lo fue para Juan el Bautista. Es entonces importante esforzamos en recibir y vivir con alegría el mensaje de vida y salvación que Cristo Jesús en voz de Juan el Bautista nos da: "Enderecen el camino para el Señor". Que la luz de Cristo este presente, no solo en este tiempo de Adviento, pero ¡Siempre!

During the time of Advent we are invited to share about the Light of Christ in our lives; and giving testimony regarding the Light is not easy homework for us like it was for John the Baptist. It is important to make an effort to receive and live with joy the message of life and salvation that Christ Jesus that we hear in John's message, "Make straight the path of the Lord". That the light of Christ is present, not just at Advent, but Always!

-Esaú Cuevas

Monday, December 18/Lunes, 18 de Diciembre

Ephesians 6:10-17

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; 11 put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, 12 for our[a] struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present[b] darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.[c] 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness 15 and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. 16 With all of these,[d] take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

This is a very important passage of scripture to me, and many Christians. The Heavenly Father has given me many gifts, but I consider my calling and abilities as a spiritual warrior to be paramount. Many years ago I noticed two important attributes in this passage. The first is that the armor of God is primarily to help us to stand. The second is that almost every piece of armor is defensive in nature. The sword of the Spirit is our only offensive weapon.

Grace and Peace,

Tuesday, December 19/Martes, 19 de Diciembre

Titus 3:4-7

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water[a] of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6 This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of

At one point we were all foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and offensive to the holy God. But in verse 4 through 6 God gave us rebirth and washed us and renewed us. God cleansed me from my sin and made me beautiful in His eyes.

I have sinned most of my life. But, thank God the ugliness of sin disappeared when I accepted Christ as my Savior. I long for the day when I'll no longer wrestle with it. Selfish actions, unkind words, willful disobedience rise up in me more often in me more often than I care to admit. Christ won the victory over sin on the cross, but I continue to struggle with it on a daily basis. God Help me and my sisters and brothers and Christ this holiday season that also struggle with this. eternal life.

-Dean McBee

Wednesday, December 20/Miercoles, 20 de Diciembre

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹ Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."
³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." ⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

God makes an unconditional covenant with David.

God has done for David.

In the text of 2nd Samuel 7:1-11,16 David, it is grateful for all God-given to him, because after too many battles finally David rested in a palace. David seems not to be fair living in a Kingdom and God dwells in a tent and tabernacle, David desires to build a temple for God, but God would not allow David to do so. God sent Jesus to die on the cross so that God can dwell in our hearts.

-Enrique Urizar

Thursday, December 21/Jueves, 21 de Diciembre

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. ² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: ⁴ I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations." *Selah*

¹⁹ Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people. ²⁰ I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; ²¹ my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

²² The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. ²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. ²⁴ My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. ²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. ²⁶ He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

The verses 1-4 of this psalm come across as a notice to the reader that God the Father is faithful to His Word, establishing a covenant that those who are attentive to his Word will enjoy blessings, and the faithful can, in turn, announce their praises of this special relationship with God the Father Almighty. ("...with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.")

I've always felt it to be equally important that we not only strive to live as Christians, but also to let it be known that we cherish this relationship and it is as much a part of our life as anything else.

Psalm 19-28 turns to the devotion of David as God's servant, and how he was selected at a young age to be God's messenger to His Chosen people. The Lord God's devotion to David, to protect him and his people, as well as ensure his line will endure for the ancestors that will come after him. ("I have sworn to David my servant, 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.'") These verses have always given me hope and brings great joy to my heart to re-read them. Praise God!

-David Schexnayder

Friday, December 22/Viernes, 22 de Diciembre

Luke 1:46b-55

El Magnificat, o “ la Magnifica como le conocí cuando vivía en México, es un canto de Esperanza para todos nosotros y nosotras dentro del caos que ha producido la terrible pandemia que estamos padeciendo.

Dios nos da su amor y misericordia tal como lo hace con Maria en esta narración, quien a pesar que la misión tan fuerte y difícil que Dios le hace, ella acepta este encargo diciendo: “Mi alma glorifica al Señor, y mi espíritu se regocija en Dios mi Salvador...” De la misma manera cuando ponemos nuestra confianza en su palabra y la ponemos en práctica a través de actos de solidaridad con todas las personas que nos rodean, no sólo en este tiempo de pandemia sino siempre, pronunciamos estas mismas palabras.

De manera que Maria nos anima e invita a darnos cuenta que Dios está presente en nuestra vida diaria, acude a nuestra ayuda, muestra su misericordia y cumple su promesas como lo hizo con el pueblo de Israel a través de Abraham y Sarah.

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“My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Cual glorioso será el Dia en que venga Jesús el salvador. Cuanto decir a ese día estar dentro de la iglesia, para ser unos de los primeros raptado. Amen.

How glorious is the day that Jesus the savior comes. When on that day to say and be in the church, to be one of the first to experience the rapture. Amen
-Eduardo Villalobos

God is great! Thank you, God, for life. Water is life.

-Joel Redfeathers

Saturday, December 23/Sabado, 23 de Diciembre

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to God^[a] who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom^[b] be the glory forever! Amen.

Gentile's were given the gospel for anointing. Every time I am close to the building I feel strength, whether I am upstairs or downstairs. I do what I can to get here (COSL). It's a good place. My general faith feels strengthened when I can talk about something that is bothering me in a Christian atmosphere. Good things happen to me when I use God's name. I feel strengthened when I go to church. Sunday is a strengthening day. My name is in the gospel. When I hear my name and God's promise I am strengthened.

-Amos Silas

4th Sunday in Advent/4 Domingo en Adviento
Lucas/Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

See Jesus Christ's footprints in the snow.

Hear the bells ring.

I got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart!

Merry Christmas!!



-Willie Heard