

# Setting Our Hope Fully on the Grace That Is Ours

A Virtual Service of Scripture and Prayer  
May 3, 2020

## Opening

Isaiah 43.1-7 & Psalm 63.1-4

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you and formed you into his people: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

*O God, you are my God; 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. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.*

Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory...”

*Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.*

## Hymn of Adoration

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 53

## Opening Prayer

## Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 36.19-29

I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries. In accordance with their ways and their deeds I judged them. But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that people said of them, ‘These are the people of the Lord, and yet they had to go out of his land.’ But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came.

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the

nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses.

### **Confession of Sin**

*Holy and gracious God, we are so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest bad news, by our own failings, and the wrongs of others. You call us to view all things through the limitless radiance of Your being, but too often we magnify everything but You, and allow finite things to define our lives. You call us to find our satisfaction in You, but we too often exchange Your immortal glory for the decaying trinkets of the world and the flesh, and are robbed of our joy. Open our eyes to see and savor Christ as our true and lasting hope. Enlarge our hearts to cherish and adore You above all rivals. Fill us with the fullness of joy and the boundless pleasures of Your presence, and may our patient trust magnify to the world the superiority of the manifold perfections of Your worth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Romans 3.21-26

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

### **Song of Praise**

Doxology

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving, Supplication & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**Homily**

"Setting Our Hope Fully on the Grace That Is Ours"

1 Peter 1.10-16

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

**Confession of Faith**

Matthew 5.3-10

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Hymn of Response**

O Great God

**Dismissal***Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Alleluia. Amen.*

**Benediction**

1 Thessalonians 5.23-24, 28

*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely,*

*and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*



*...loving God and worshiping Him as we impact our area  
by teaching and discipling people for Jesus Christ.*