

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
June 13 2021

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ.

Worship News

Worship is now in the sanctuary beginning at 9:30 (summer hours).

Procedures and Requirements for In-Door Worship

- Masks and social distancing required at all times while in the building
- Sign in on sign-up sheets that will be on a podium as you enter the Gathering Area
- Pick up your bulletin and communion kit at the table in the Gathering Area
- Place your offering in the offering plate at the table in the Gathering Area
- Sit only in designated seating places (if you are sitting with more than two people, please sit on the sides)
- Greet and visit with people before or after worship outside
- The windows will be open and the large ceiling fan will be on to move the air instead of the air conditioning, so please dress accordingly
- The service will be on-line for those not yet comfortable being inside.
 - In order to not overload the internet, please either power down your phones or put them on Airplane Mode.
 - Also, so that the people who are joining us on-line can hear the congregational responses and announcements, a worship leader/reader will lead the congregational responses and all announcements must be made at the pulpit.

Social Ministry – We are collecting can and dry goods for the Muhlenberg Churches Food Pantry in June. Please, put your donations on or next to the white shelves in the Gathering Area.

Property – We have old metal folding chairs that need new homes. If you would like some, see Lynn Shollenberger or just go into the Sunday School Room (aka Teddy Bear Room) and take some.

Worship Leaders – As we move inside, we will be in need of people to help lead worship by reading both the congregational responses and the lessons. Please let Pastor Denise know if you are willing to volunteer.

If you have prayer requests, please send them to me so that I can include them in my weekly newsletters.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Denise

Home Phone 610-750-6432

Cell/Text Phone 610-858-8187

Psalm 13

A reading of the 13th Psalm

13 ¹⁻² Long enough, God—
you've ignored me long enough.
I've looked at the back of your head
long enough. Long enough
I've carried this ton of trouble,
lived with a stomach full of pain.
Long enough my arrogant enemies
have looked down their noses at
me.

³⁻⁴ Take a good look at me, God, my
God;
I want to look life in the eye,
So no enemy can get the best of me
or laugh when I fall on my face.

⁵⁻⁶ I've thrown myself headlong into
your arms—
I'm celebrating your rescue.
I'm singing at the top of my lungs,
I'm so full of answered prayers.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father
and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. AMEN.

This week I moved into my new house and on the very next day after I moved in with many errands to run I locked myself out of the garage with my car inside and I had to call a locksmith to come and rescue me.

I had never used the services of a locksmith before, so I imagined that he would come with a drill and drill through the lock to open the door and I would be left with a broken door lock that would be added to my long lists of things I need to do in the near future. Already on that list was replace the locks on the front door, back door and two garage doors so they would all open with the same key.

To my surprise, he came with this handy tool that he used to unlock the door and when I told him I had just bought the house and the owner had not left me a key for that door, he asked if I wanted it keyed to match the front door.

Well long story short, before he left I had all my doors rekeyed to the same key. So not only was my dilemma with my garage door fixed but so was one the items on my to do list taken care of.

Now I know that this is a trivial example of a silver lining or a blessing that comes out of a challenge, but when I sat to reflect on this Psalm it reminded me of how much God is like the locksmith, the one who has

special tools to open up our hearts and minds and in doing so gives us so much more than we could ever imagine.

And although like my waiting all day for the locksmith to arrive, very often we have to wait to see what work God is doing while we endure the trials and tribulations of life. But like the phone call I made to reach out to the locksmith for help, we also need to reach out to God for help and then trust that God will come to our rescue.

As we hear in this morning's Psalm, David is in the midst of one of the terrific challenges of his life. David has reached out and cried out to God for help. David has opened up to God and shared his innermost fears and frustrations. And now David is frustrated that God has not yet responded to him.

In David's writings we often hear David state publicly that God was slow to act on his behalf and

that David was especially disappointed in God's perceived lack of action when there seemed to be no end to the suffering he and his people were encountering.

And it seemed in the same breath that David proclaimed his frustrations and even admonished God for not coming to his aid, he also declared that he would continue to trust in God no matter how long he had to wait. And that is what we hear in the 13th Psalm.

In the beginning of this Psalm, we hear David's anguish as David laments about how dire his circumstances are. He claims that he has been burdened with an insurmountable amount of trouble and he has waited long enough for God to help him and his people.

He claimed his dire circumstances have taken a toll on his body.

He claimed that he has been disrespected and humiliated by

his enemies as his adversaries
mock him or laugh at him as
they overpower him

David lays all of his frustrations,
all of his anxieties and all of his
failures on God. And it's like
after he gets all that off his
chest, he is cleansed and he
remembers the faithfulness and
steadfastness of the God of
Israel.

At that point, the tone of this
Psalm changes as we hear him
put his faith and his trust in God
as he says. I am throwing myself
into your care and even before
any of his circumstances change,
he is now celebrating God's
rescue of him and his people.

Such a tremendous display of
faith as he recalls how the God of
Israel has been faithful to God's
people in the past and will
certainly in God's own way and
in God's own timing be faithful
to David and his people now.

So even though his
circumstances haven't changed,
he celebrated by joyfully singing
God's praises for all that God has
done, God continues to do and
God will do for them in the
future.

We have all had times of great
challenge, whether it is health
issues, whether it is relationship
issues, or whether it is financial
issues. And so very often in the
midst of our trials and
tribulations, we are so forlorn
that it is hard to see what God is
up to. It is hard to remember
how faithful God has been in the
past. It is hard to wait for God's
relief and rescue.

And in this psalm the psalmist
gives us words and images to
express our frustrations and
fears, words of lament. But that
is not the only guidance that this
Psalm offers us, for David shows
us how to find some relief and
peace in our darkest hour. And
that is to reach out to God, even
when God who seems to be
absent.

We can lament, we can shout at
God, we can lay our frustrations,
our fears, our desperation on
God not so that God can fix
things immediately, but so that
we can remember who we belong
to and who is always walking
with us through the trials and
tribulations that this world
presents to us.

And in reconnecting ourselves
with the one who is faithful,
steadfast and just, we can
experience a breath of fresh air,
as we choose to live in the
assurance that God is with us
even though the world around us
may seem to be crumbling down.

For like the locksmith who has
those special tools to open and
fix door locks, we can be assured
that God has divine tools that
will open our hearts and minds.
And that reaching out to God
will make all the difference in

how we get through those
darkest hours.

Yes, we may still be in the midst
of our suffering and see no end in
sight, but there is a divine
comfort to be received when we
open ourselves up to God,
naming our brokenness and then
trusting that in God's time and
in God's way, God will show up,
doors will be opened and new
resurrected life will begin.

AMEN

Blessing

May

The love of God,

The light of Christ,

And the joy of the Holy Spirit

Abide with you on this day

and forever more.

AMEN