

A Meditation on Psalm 130

Lent 1 -- 13 February Anno Domini 2005

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Emmett, Idaho
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The Word of the Lord:

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice:

let Thine ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications.

If Thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities,
O Lord, who shall stand?

But there is forgiveness with Thee,
that Thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait,
and in His Word do I hope.

My soul waiteth for the Lord
more than they that watch for the morning:
I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the LORD:
for with the LORD there is mercy,
and with Him is plenteous redemption.

And He shall redeem Israel from all His iniquities.

Hark and Hear! a fallen one is hymning

for Psalm 130 of Holy Writ is

a Song of Ascents,
the Psalm of a Penitential Soul

Out of the depths I cry ...
out of the world ... a lone soul groans because of
... the litany of decay and death
... the darkness of devils and this world's night
... the plagues of thorny infestation and gnawing disease
... the reigns of terror and the decimations of tsunami
... the wretched wars of men and those awful acts of
God

Out of the depths I cry ...
out of the body ... a lone soul moans its plea because of
... pains that gnaw, shoot and grind

... cancers of blood, bone and skin
... tears, phlegm and nausea
... legions of diseases, afflictions and ailments
... paralysis, parasites and migraines
... a thorn of Satan and that consequent will of God

Out of the depths I cry ...
out of the spirit ... a lone soul lifts up its voice because
of
... the sinful self, the accusing Word and the awful
terror
... the transgressions, the shame and the condemnation
... the sins of my youth and the advent of God's
Judgment Day
... the knowledge that the soul that sins shall die
... the nightmares of time that extend into eternity

Ask ye who this soul is that cries?
A trinity of sorts. It is me, myself and I.
Ask ye to whom these cries ascend?
The Trinity. It is Jehovah, Yahweh, the LORD.

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O LORD!
Lord, hear my voice!
Let Thy ears be attentive to the voice of my
supplications!

Hark and Hear! for the Other One, a Soul Who
is very sorrowful, even unto death (Matthew 26:38),
... the Son of God, petitions ...

My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me;
nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt (Matthew
26:39).

The wrath of God bearing down on me,
... passes over to Jesus as the Father hands over
... my cup filled with the sediment of my sin
... and my cup of the dregs of my diseases,
... and my cup of the awful depths of my death,
... to His Son and for His Son to ... take and drink.

If Thou, O LORD, shouldst mark iniquities,
... shouldst tally up the transgressions of Thy Decalog
... shouldst note the sins of the flesh and deeds of the
body
... shouldst cipher the wicked words and deeds of the
tongue

... shouldst mark the mind's evil thoughts and lustful musings
... the heart's corrupt out-pourings
... the spirit's bent dealings
... the soul's unrighteous faults and natural default

Lord, who could stand?

... I could most certainly not stand now or on that Day
... neither father nor mother could stand
... neither sister nor brother
... neither son nor daughter, whether grand or otherwise
... red, brown, yellow, black or white none are perfect in Thy sight

And the Incarnate Son of God, could He stand?

... between the Almighty and the fallen - He stands sacrificially
... in the breach separating heaven and hell - He stands in the cross-hairs
... as wilderness scapegoat and Passover Lamb - He stands bearing sin
... marked with the sum of mankind's debts - He stands in our stead
... at the intersection of wooden post and beam - He stands nailed
... at this intercession He takes the stand and petitions ...
... "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34)
... at the separation of body and soul, His Word stands ...
...
... "It is finished" (John 19:30).
... between the descent into hell and the ascension unto heaven ...
... He stands again on the third day ... on Easter morning
... He stands on my side and I shall see him and not another

Therefore the penitent soul may say to the Almighty LORD, "I am a sinner;

... but there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared."
There is forgiveness with Thee ...

forgiveness ...
... wrought 2,000 years ago at the Place of the Skull
forgiveness ...
... offered according to His gracious Word of Good

News

forgiveness ...

... wrought for ciphered sins of each, all and everyone

forgiveness ...

... offered in the extended, nail-pierced hands of Jesus the Christ

forgiveness ...

... wrought not by our doing or deserving, but by God's Son

... offered by way of common means the Holy One advents unto us ...

... by a collared man's mouth speaking God's absolving Word

... I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Triune God

... by a splash of water connected with Christ's cleansing Word

... washing "for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38)

... by a bit of bread and the Body of Jesus according to the Word

and by the Fruit of the Vine's Divine wine, for 'tis His Word

... given and shed for you for the remission of sins

There is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared.

... to possess proper fear and not unfaithful fear

... to fear as a son and not be afraid as a slave

... to trust according to the hearing of the Word and not by sight

... to hope the certain hope of an heir of heaven

... to love because of faith in the One Who loved us first

... to fear because there is forgiveness with Thee ...

therefore ...

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope;

... in the fallen land of sins I behold the Father's Way

... Whose Word from heaven tells me to listen to His Son and

... therefore I am Baptized in His Name

... in the midst of a legion of pains I hear the Comforter of Truth

... Whose Word soothes me, that is, my soul and
... therefore I hear the Absolution of God
... in the valley of the shadow of death I wait with the
Lord of Life
... Whose Word promises that though I die yet shall I
live and
... therefore I feast at His Holy Supper

Lord, to Whom shall we go? You have the Words of
Eternal Life.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His Word I
hope;
my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for
the morning;
more than watchmen for the morning.

How does the watchman wait?
... in the darkness, yet in the hope for the Light of the
world
... as a silent sentinel meditating on the Word
... ready to bear witness to the advent of the Day
... in faith,
... standing in the crucifixion of Baptism
... yearning for the dawning of the Day
... bearing witness to the advent of the King
... knowing that God's Word is sure and certain
... hoping in, with and according to that Word
... encouraging one another as we see the Day
approaching, saying

O Israel, hope in the LORD!
O Church, trust in Jehovah!
O Congregation, believe in Yahweh!
O beloved people of God!
O faithful in Christ! Indeed ...
O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
... there is certain forgiveness
... there is continuing grace, mercy and peace,
... there is the entering into and abiding in Emanuel's
presence
... there is hope for now and for each day and for as
many days
... there is plenteous redemption

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plenteous redemption.

And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities,
... the LORD will usher His Israel home
... Jehovah will bring His Church to Paradise
... Yahweh will call His Congregation to the never-
ending Feast
... Emanuel will gather His flock into Heaven
... Christ will bring His Bride to the Great Wedding
... And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Hark and Hear, O faithful soul, ...
... you are forgiven of all your sins
... in the Name of the Father and
of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost.
... Amen.