

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Sixth Sunday of Easter — May 5, 2024

“Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!”

- Psalm 98:1 -

It doesn't always feel like God is doing marvelous things; as a matter of fact, sometimes it feels like He has abandoned us. We see suffering all around and even experience it in our own lives. Despite this, God's good works are so worthy of praise that even the creation sings along with the song from the heavens to the earth; the sea roars, the floods clap their hands and the hills sing. God's faithfulness is forever and it reaches everywhere. Best of all His works, God has promised salvation to His people. Though we will not see the fulfillment of that promise in this life, we can walk in faith and rest in the knowledge that God has done what we cannot do: He has overcome the world for our sake. We can't be saved by our own strength or righteousness. Christ saved us on the cross and covers us with His righteousness.

The psalmist calls us to sing about God's faithfulness and His lasting love for His people. We praise God with our voice; we sing a new song. We praise Him with a harp and trumpets. We sing God's praise as we worship together, as we are fed, body and soul, through the Word and Sacraments. We praise God by getting to know Him in our Bible studies. We praise God in prayer and in the fellowship of believers.

The worship and praise does not stop at the doors of our churches, however. We praise God when we share a word of hope with someone in distress and when we give a cup of water to the thirsty. We praise God when we pray for the healing of the nations and our neighbors. We praise God when we introduce others to the saving grace found through Jesus Christ our Lord. As we do so, let's remember that our thanksgiving is not just for those things from the past, but for everything God is doing and will do in our lives. We are most thankful for the one thing that He has done that will not be fulfilled until the end: our salvation.

It might seem at times as though God has abandoned us, but today's difficulties will pass. For today, let's remember that God is God and that He has done marvelous things.