

**Monday, November 2, 2020 - Scripture: Psalm 46:1, 7, 11; Song: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"**

Saturday was Reformation Day. Even though I have used the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" for one of these devotions I decided to use it again. It's been a while and the context is different. There is so much going on again. Covid-19 is ramping up to higher rates than it was at its worst in March and April though the death rates are a lot lower. Tomorrow is the election and everybody is nervous about who our President will be for the next four years and who will control the House and Senate. Natural disasters still ravage our country with forest fires and hurricanes being the worst right now. We are worried about our finances as all these things seem to be affecting our economy as well. If you haven't already, it's time to turn to God. As Luther wrote, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God, a trusty shield and weapon." And later it's "Though devils all the world should fill, they cannot overcome us." There will be plagues and natural disasters and other problems at Luther's time too, and the answer to their problems is God who sent Jesus to rescue us from sin with us. Luther used the words of Psalm 46 as the basis for his hymn. And there were problems in the days of the Psalmist too. Natural disasters and the temptations of the devil and the world were in turmoil then too. The Psalmist writes "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble," and then twice he writes, "the Almighty God is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge." So, as you fear all the things I've been talking about, go to your refuge and strength, God who sent Jesus. The victory has been won in Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection. Nothing can get in the way of that. Have faith in Jesus and God who is our refuge and strength. Listen to the hymn and be comforted.

[A Mighty Fortress Is Our God](#)

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020 - Scripture: Revelation 5:8-9; Song: "All The Saints"**

Until this week I have purposely avoided using Hymns and songs that I have used before. Someone convinced me that it wasn't bad to use some of them again, especially as today is Hymn or song #120 in this series. On Monday, I shared about Reformation and shared a hymn I had used before. Today, I want to share a little

about All Saint's Day' which was November 1<sup>st</sup>, last Sunday. I couldn't choose any other hymn when doing that than "For All the Saints." So that is our hymn for today. Today is the day after the election and we might not know the results yet. But if we are still waiting, the hymn and our Scripture verses from Revelation 5 will help us wait. The title "For all the Saints who from their labors rest," is a hint for us who are stressed and frozen with fear. As saints, believers in Christ, we too can look forward to our rest with the saints who went before us. The reading from Revelation 5 mentions the prayers of the saints and that those saints in heaven are singing a new song. We will be singing a new song as well. The worries about the election about Covid-19, and more are temporary and because of the victory won for us by Jesus' death and resurrection none of the things that we worry about can defeat us. We can look back to the saints who nobly fought of old and that they won the victory and are singing a new song in heaven, not because of anything they have done but because of what Christ did for them. Listen to the hymn and be at peace. Someday in faith, we too as saints will rest from our labors.

[For All the Saints Who From Their Labours Rest \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

**Friday, November 6, 2020 - Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-9; Song: "Endlessly"**

So it's Friday, almost 4 days since the election and by now we still don't know for sure who our President will be for the next 4 years. We might also have a better handle on the direction Covid-19 is heading. Will it still be spiking or will the efforts to slow it's spread begin to work again. We might just be at a place where we need to know that God is in control and that he has saved us already from everything that we might be fearing. Listening to today's song, "Endlessly" by Josh Baldwin might be the perfect ending to the week. Josh sings, "It was once for all the Father gave the Son, forever we are changed by the miracle of grace. Throughout history the Father's light remains." All these words are helpful now. Even you think this is the worst moment in history, the Father's light remains. Forever we are changed by the miracle of grace. Which brings us to our Scripture

for today, Ephesians 2:8 and 9 "For it is by grace you are saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works so that no one can boast." So even if Covid-19 is rampant, if the wrong side won the election in your estimation, know that God is working in history in a way we can't understand, just as he works the miracle of grace, by sending Jesus for us. We can praise Him endlessly, despite our earthly circumstances. So listen to the song and be encouraged and then come to church on Sunday and hear the Lord at work again.

[Endlessly \(Lyric Video\) - Josh Baldwin | The War is Over](#)

**Wednesday, November 11 2020 - Scripture: Psalm 33:12; Song: "America the Beautiful"**

Today is Veteran's Day, the day we honor all those who have served or are serving our country and helping to make it beautiful as Twila Paris sings in our song for today. Not all veterans understand this but not only are they serving their country but as they attempt to right wrongs on behalf of our country, they are also serving the Lord as their vocation. What a blessing our veterans are, as well as those who serve us as politicians, those in other positions in government or volunteering in other ways on behalf of our country. But be careful here they are not the main reason that our country is great, set apart from other countries today if we are. As the song says in the chorus, "God shed his grace on thee." It's God's grace that makes our country what it is. As human beings, as heroic as we may be, we still fall short of measuring up to God's standards. We need His grace as the song says. And grace is often defined as God's riches at Christ's expense. GRACE. It's not having great Armed Forces, a great economy, great politicians (or not), or anything we are or do that makes us great. The words of Psalm 33:12 explain it best where the Psalmist writes, "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord." Our forefathers knew that and that's why there was so much emphasis on God in our Declaration of Independence and why the phrase "In God we Trust" is printed on all our money. So, honor the Veterans today. They deserve it but honor God as well. And as you listen to the song, listen for the places it spells out God's place in making our nation "Beautiful" It will help you in the coming days as our people and even our nation disappoint. And then remember, God won't.

[America the Beautiful w/ lyrics Sung by: Twila Paris](#)

**Friday, November 13 2020 - Scripture: Colossians 3:15; Song: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"**

In a week and a half, our country will celebrate it's National Day of Thanksgiving. So, it's time to break out some of the hymns which remind us to be the thankful to and for the one who has given us everything. Today's hymn, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," is the first of those hymns. As the first verse of the hymn says, "God our maker doth provide, all our wants to be supplied." We might be worried about the pandemic causing us to lose our jobs or the economy crashing because of the election results but we need not. Check your cupboards. Are they empty? I think not. Check where your live, are you in want for poor housing? I think not. Check your closets as winter is coming. Are you worried about warm clothes to get you through the winter? I am guessing not. All your wants are being supplied. Not by the politicians or by your hard work, though God may have provided that work for you, but by the one who created you. Be at peace as this year's Thanksgiving comes around again. Think about peace, peace in not worrying about where your next meal or house or clothing will come from. Peace from knowing that politics or Covid-19 can't harm us. Peace from knowing that the Christ child coming again soon in a manger grew up to die for your sins. Peace is what Christians are about. As Paul writes to the Colossians in chapter 3, verse 15: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." So be at peace as members of Christ's body, the church. And be thankful. God knows there's plenty of need for peace right now and it won't be coming by curing Covid-19 or putting our hope in some imperfect politician. Peace and thanksgiving to the one who supplies all our needs. What a great combination of we begin to push towards Thanksgiving 2020. Listen to the hymn and join in, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come."

[Come, Ye Thankful People, Come \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

**Monday, November 16, 2020 - Scripture: Isaiah 43:15-19; Song: "We Praise You, O God"**

It's Monday again and as we creep closer to Thanksgiving, I've chosen another Thanksgiving hymn to feature. The first line of the hymn ends with a beautiful description of who our God is: "Redeemer, Creator." When we think of who to thank again

this Thanksgiving, who better than the one who created us. But he didn't only create us but he also redeemed, brought us back to Him with the blood of His Son, Jesus. Then the second verse says, "through trials and tempests, our guide you have been, when perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us." And these are certainly true as the trials and perils of Covid-19 and the economic downturn that has come with it continue to run rampant. We can be thankful that God has not forsaken us. But we shouldn't be surprised, the God who was willing to forsake his own Son for us so that in his death and resurrection our sins are forgiven. will not forsake us Isaiah reminds us in our Scripture from Isaiah 43: "This is what the Lord says=your Redeemer, the holy one of Israel, ..... "I am the Lord, your Holy one, Israel's Creator, your King." Then he goes on to say, "Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?" People might be thinking, "How do we say thank you in such rough times, when things seem to be going so bad?" The answer from both hymn and Scripture: "How can you not?" The God who created us and redeemed in Jesus will not forsake us. All this earthly tribulation is temporary. Heaven awaits. Let begin the Thanksgiving now. Sing along with the hymn and be encouraged.

[785. We Praise You, O God - The Congregation sings from The Lutheran Service Book.](#)

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020 - Scripture: Ephesians 3:25-26; Song: "My Prayer for You"**

Today's devotion will be published as I eye am sitting home wishing I could have had eye surgery today. I know that God has a plan for me and that the fact i couldn't have surgery today is part of it. Many of you have praying for me for a while now. It seemed appropriate to choose a song called, "My Prayer for you." By Alisha Turner. I want to focus especially on part of the chorus, "He is able." She describes the emotions and feelings of many right now. Covid-19, the unstable economy, struggles in our families and more. They all, if we attempt to deal with them on our own, will cause us to lose hope. But Alisha reminds us not to depend on ourselves but God, "He is able." As Paul puts it in our Scripture from Ephesians 4: "Now to him who is able to do far more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power which is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, for ever and ever. Amen." Successful surgery or not, Covid-19

ending or not, a better economy or not, in Christ Jesus God has been able, he has done far more than we can imagine. And he will continue to do so forever and forever. Amen. So, pray for me today lack of surgery or not, knowing that God is able and be reminded of that is Alisha's song. God bless you and keep you and give you His peace.

[My Prayer for You \(lyrics\) ~ Alisa Turner](#)