

Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S 4th St., Harrisburg, PA 17101

Tuesday Advent 3 Bible Study: December 14, 2021

Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing

Series Theme Verse: *They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

Week 3 Theme Verse: *This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. - Isaiah 25:9*

Opening Prayer

O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth your power and might, just as you did in the days of Mary and Elizabeth; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit—God forever. Amen.

1 Samuel 2:1-3

And Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I **rejoice in your salvation**.² “There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.³ Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

Romans 12:11-18

¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² **Rejoice in hope**, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ **Rejoice with those who rejoice**, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ **And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?** ⁴⁴ **For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.** ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Reflection

1 Samuel 2:1-3

Hannah sings of “my heart, my horn, my mouth, my enemies” (v.1), but these are placed in strong contrast to “*your* deliverance” (author’s emphasis). It is Hannah’s joy, but Yahweh’s power. Verse 2 complements verse 1 by a powerful triad of “none, none, none,” asserting there is no other like Yahweh ... This song is indeed a celebration of Yahweh’s incomparability. Yahweh is the one who has the *power to transform* and the *willingness to intervene* on behalf of the powerless.

Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching: First & Second Samuel; Walter Brueggemann, John Knox Press

Romans 12:11-18

Life shaped in the way Paul describes it is ... grateful response to the God who has delivered us from our slavery to sin. These admonitions are thus not “law” in the sense of requirements we must fulfill if God is to accept us. Paul is not smuggling the law through the back door, as it were, in his ethical admonitions. The admonitions are not contrary to grace, they are the response to grace taken seriously enough to shape one’s life accordingly.

Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching: Romans; Paul Achtemeier, John Knox Press

What is your initial reaction to hearing waiting linked with rejoicing?

What could waiting upon the Lord with rejoicing look like for you?

In what ways do you see congregations following or struggling to follow Paul’s instructions in Romans 12:11-18?

In what ways do you follow or struggle to follow these instructions in your own life of Christian discipleship?

Closing Prayer based on Hymn *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing. Amen.