

## There's a Psalm for This

There's a story that I've heard forever. I tried to find its origin, but failed rather miserably – it's a story everyone seems to know, but no one knows where they know it from! It's the story of the drowning man. This is a bit of a compilation of the different versions, and there are a lot of them!

A pastor was trapped in his house during a flood. He prayed for God to rescue him and he trusted that God would. His neighbor was leaving and offered him a ride, but he responded, "I'm waiting for God to save me." His neighbor drove off, leaving him there. He continued to pray, and as the waters rose, he had to climb up on his roof. A boat came by, and they threw a rope to him to get him to safety, but he refused, saying, "I'm waiting for God to save me!" The boat left him there. The pastor continued to pray, and then a helicopter flew by, offering to lower him a ladder. The pastor waved them off, saying, "I'm waiting for God to save me. Then the helicopter left, and not long after, the pastor died in the flood.

After his death, the pastor met God, and asked him, "God, why didn't you save me? I trusted you with all my heart!" And God replied, "But pastor, I sent a car, a boat, and a helicopter!"

I thought of that story because of Psalm 124, a moment of joy for the Israelites whom God had saved from being attacked. They are celebrating God rescuing them from a rough situation.

### **Psalm 124 (CEB)**

*A pilgrimage song. Of David.*

If the Lord hadn't been for us—let Israel now repeat!—  
if the Lord hadn't been for us, when those people attacked us  
then they would have swallowed us up whole with their rage burning against us!  
Then the waters would have drowned us;  
the torrent would have come over our necks;  
then the raging waters would have come over our necks!

Bless the Lord because he didn't hand us over like food for our enemies' teeth!  
We escaped like a bird from the hunters' trap; the trap was broken so we escaped!

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

If God worked in the Israelites' lives the way God works in my life, it wasn't some dramatic event that God used to save them – it was the little things that, only when looking back on them, do we start to see God's actions. I have my own share of stories of God's provision that I didn't notice at the time, but when I looked back, saw God working through the "normal" things of life to make everything work out.

So when it comes to God's work in our lives, I think it's good to *lower* our expectations. Don't just look for the huge things, but look for the little things – the common occurrences at perhaps uncommon times – that just work out for our good; and then, most importantly, praise God for those things. too.

Pastor Mike Galica

## Holy Cross Announcements

We're in the **Season after Pentecost**, a time in the church year of studying the Scriptures in order to learn to follow Jesus more closely. Our paraments are green to symbolize growing more Christ-like each day.

The **Bear River Health Department** is administering COVID-19 vaccinations to all those over 12! For more information and to check availability, visit <https://brhd.org/covid-19-vaccine-information/>

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to distribute! Visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836 to find out if you are eligible.

If you want to give an offering to the church but are either unable to or don't feel comfortable with attending in person, you can mail it to PO Box 732, Brigham City UT, 84302. The post office box gets checked regularly and your giving will be secure.

**Sunday School** for children is recessed.

**Adult Sunday School** will resume online September 19.

**Holy Cross Quilters** will continue refraining from meeting.

### **This Week's Readings:**

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – *Revelation: Promise Fulfilled* –

Revelation 21:1-6,22:1-5; John 16:20-28,33

### **Next Week's Readings:**

Holy Cross Sunday – *Creation by the Word* – Genesis 1:1-2:4a; John 1:1-5



## Prayer List

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." — Phil 4:6*

### **Keep the following in your prayers**

**Holly**, Bob Kosbab's cousin's daughter, hospitalized with COVID-19.

**Bob Quick**, for healing

**Ann**, Jeff Hoedt's daughter, **and her baby due in October**. Ann has gestational diabetes.

**Matt Long**, Andrea's brother, for healing and a successful surgery.

**Matt**, Deborah Kay's cousin, for healing.

**Tyson**, Michelle's dad's friend's son, for mental health.

**Our vulnerable populations**, especially those with underlying health conditions, the homeless, and those lacking access to proper medical care in this time.

**Trudee Klein**, friend of Deborah Kay, for healing from cancer.

**Tom & Jeanette Croft**, friend of Kosbabs, for healing.

**Abby Rasmussen and family**, friends of Kosbabs, as she struggles with cystic fibrosis.

**John Buist**, our custodian, for continued health problems.

**Lynne**, Robert Quick's wife, with health issues.

**Aleasa**, Robert Quick's daughter, with health issues.

**Gloria Perry**, for healing from health problems.

**Box Elder County Jail Ministry**, that the inmates may respond to the Gospel.

### **Give thanks to God**

**Michelle Galica**, recovering from surgery.

**Claudia Long**, Andrea's mom, is doing much better but still needs prayer for strength and health.

### **Keep those in prayer who are in harm's way**

**Medical professionals** and all who are continuing to work during this pandemic.

**Braxton Jeppsen**, serving in the US Navy.

*Let Pastor Mike know if there are any petitions you wish to add to our Prayer List. If you added someone to the prayer list, please update us on how they are doing! We love to celebrate praises as well as petitions. Out of concern for people's privacy, we no longer speak people's names in the worship service, but we continue to pray for all their needs and concerns.*