

Psalm 130 (NIV84)

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

2 O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

3 If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

6 My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

7 O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

My family has a dear friend who is from Spain; he lives in Barcelona. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the government officials in Barcelona have forbidden its citizen from leaving their homes except for essential needs. In the past month our friend has left his apartment only to take out the trash. You might well relate to what it's like to wait anxiously to hear from the government that you can leave your home and venture out in public.

While it is uncertain when we will hear from our government, or if we will hear from our government, it is certain that when we bring our prayers and petitions to our heavenly Father, He will hear and He will answer us.

Those who are actually infected with the virus are kept in isolation. Sin has that same effect on us: it isolates us and separates us from our God; there is no lonelier place to be. But God who is rich in mercy reached out to us in love and sent our Lord Jesus to our rescue. By Jesus' perfect sacrifice our sins are forgiven and by His holy blood we are brought into God's presence -- reunited -- never again to be isolated from Him. May that truth bring you comfort and joy today and always.

Rejoicing with you in Christ our Redeemer,

Pastor Golm

April 29

Cries That Reach the Father's House

...and the cry of the city went up to heaven. 1 Samuel 5:12

Someone has said that if only for one brief moment we could hear all of the

prayers ascending to the Father's house from every corner of the world-the gasps of the wounded, the sick, and the dying; the cries of the forlorn, the forsaken, and the distressed-we could not bear the painful sorrow of it all. Only God, in his unsearchable attributes of love, mercy, justice, and wisdom, can both hear and bear that burden. But, praise his name! He can not only hear- he can also help! "The hand that wounds knows how to bind and heal the broken heart."

As the child cries out in the night for the soothing hand of father or mother, so we, the children of our Father, cry out to him in the night of our uncertainty. We have his divine assurance that he will never leave us, that he will always be at our side with ready help and comfort: "He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee." "Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

As children of our Father, we will address our petitions to him in our Redeemer's name. It is Christ who has made us the children of God and has won for us the priceless privilege of coming to our Father to "make our wants and wishes known". May we, then, come boldly, confidently and humbly, knowing that in Christ our every prayer is acceptable to God our Father.

For this we have the example of the Savior himself. Again and again, but especially in Gethsemane and on Calvary, his cry "went up to heaven"- his Father's house.

O Thou, by whom we come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod-Lord, teach us how to pray!

Lord, may we come to You daily with our prayers and our petitions as dear children come to their dear father. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.