

Friday, September 4, 2020

Dear Members, Friends, and Guests of Desert Hills Lutheran Church,

Welcome to the long Labor Day weekend. Time for an update. Inquiring minds want to know. The quail family has grown up and we now have daily visits of six or seven adult quail coming in the afternoon to visit and chat. We finally got Julie's car back yesterday after the hail damage. It looks beautiful again, the hail damage is gone. What is your guess that I will make sure her car is in the garage if there is even a hint of storm? And the packrats? They have been quiet, probably plotting their next moves.

I continue to read through the psalms. This morning was Psalm 13. Early this morning I was reading news reports and there was a report that depression has tripled among people since the shutdowns. I don't know exactly where such a measurement came from, but I suspect there is truth to it. The shutdown has been unlike anything we have lived through. So, it was with great attention I read Psalm 13.

1. How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
2. How long must I bear pain in my soul,
And have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Four really good questions. The writer sounds a bit depressed to me.

3. Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death.

Now I know the writer is depressed. At the very pit of depression, death begins to look like a way out. The writer is a believer, but struggling with his or her life, as happens to all of us at times.

4. and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed."
My foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

Who is this enemy mentioned in verse 2 and 4? We don't know. Are there enemies in our lives? My guess is most of us would say, "yes." What is the answer for us? The writer gathers himself/herself and says, "I have trusted you Lord and I'll keep singing your praises."

5. But I trusted your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
6. I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Did the writer just talk himself/herself out of the pit? Maybe, but there is something healing about being honest with God, no matter our circumstances. Our words become prayers and lead us back to our faith.

I hope you have a very good weekend and I encourage all of us to take a break from the news, worship with us online, and find ways to sing to the Lord.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin