

Trinity Lutheran Church
Traditional Service
April 26, 2020

Call To Worship

Worship Focus

Consider How the Birds Above

Consider how the birds above
Feed day by day with carefree ease
Does God not keep them in His love?
Are we not worth much more than these?

The lilies grow, they do not toil;
How fair is their fragility
If God clothes these, which quickly spoil,
Will He not clothe both you and me?

Set not your heart on food or drink,
Nor be weighed down by worldly care;
About such things the godless think,
Yet never thank the Lord in prayer.

Be on your guard against all greed,
For life is more than what we own.
Our Father knows our ev'ry need
Before our needs to us are known.

Be not afraid to suffer loss
Of all the things for which you pray,
For He who faced for you the cross
Will give you strength to live each day.

Seek first God's reign, His boundless grace,
His holy name in all you do:
Christ first and last in ev'ry place;
All else will then be given you

Invocation

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

People: Amen!

Pastor: Dear Savior, all I think or do

People: Thine eye can see;

Pastor: My many wants, my trials, too,

People: Thine eye can see;

Pastor: Wherever I dwell it matters not,

People: My home a palace or a cot;

Pastor: Thank God! whatever be my lot,

People: Thine eye can see.

Pastor: Thine eye can see, Thine eye can see;

People: Thank God! Whatever be my lot, Thine eye can see!

THINE EYE CAN SEE

Mary A. Kidder

Hymn Service for the Sunday School

Verse 1 and refrain

Confession of Sin

Pastor: Lord God, our refuge and strength,

People: Today we confess our fears and worries; we get so preoccupied with the difficulties in our lives and the problems in the world that we lose sight of you. We easily fall into sin and fail to trust in You, Your Word, and Your Promises. Please hear our confession and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake.

*Please take a moment of silence to reflect
on your sinfulness and your need for a Savior.*

Words of Absolution

Pastor: The Lord watches over you! He is our refuge and strength, and ever present help in times of trouble! Today be absolutely assured that your sins are completely forgiven in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: Amen!

The Collect

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: We join together in prayer.

All: Lord God, we thank You for carefully watching over our lives. We ask that You grant us strong faith and rock solid trust in You and Your promises as we live in this broken, sinful, and dangerous world. We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the Name of Jesus our Savior, Amen!

The Scripture Lessons

Psalms 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? ² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD watches over you – the LORD is your shade at your right hand; ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; ⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Please Rise For The Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:25–34

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

The Nicene Creed

Pastor: We remember back to our own Baptism as we confess the Creed together. Do you renounce the devil and all of his evil works and all of his wicked ways?

People: I do renounce them!

Pastor: In whom do you believe?

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Seek Ye First (LSB-712)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

Today's Message

By Pastor Dave Bolte

Past sermons are available online at www.trinitylcs.org

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen!

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me (LSB-722)

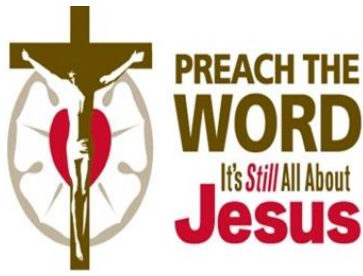
Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, in peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that You will strengthen my steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

***God the Father has given you God the Holy Spirit to make you
a Biblically-literate, Doctrinally-sound, Mission-minded, and
Passionately-engaged disciple of God the Son Jesus Christ!***

All hymns used with permission LSBHymnLicense.net #100010917 • THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide



Psalm 121

Psalm 121 Matthew 6:25-34

April 26, 2020

Pastor Dave Bolte

One of the very first pastoral visits I ever made was to a woman battling cancer. I was at the beginning my ministry, she was at the end of her life. I asked her what her favorite Bible verse was, and she said Psalm 121. At the time, I didn't know that Psalm. She went on to recite it for me, and then to explain it to me – and I have never forgotten her, nor Psalm 121! Psalm 121 is a wonderful Psalm where God **repeatedly** promises to take care of you! Today we'll look it!

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? ² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; ⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

The emphasis of this Psalm is God's loving care and watchfulness over you! 6 times in these 8 verses God promises to *watch over you and protect you!*

Look at verses 1&2:

*I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

In this Psalm, *God* is your *Helper*. He is the only one that is truly able to help you in your time of need.

Notice that the word LORD is capitalized -- in Hebrew it is the name of God that is pronounced 'Yahweh' – the God of the Exodus, the God *who loves to help His People, delivers them from evil*, and is *close to them in times of trouble*. **'Yahweh' is the God who watches over you!**

In the New Testament, Yahweh became flesh and blood and dwelt among us. We know Yahweh as Jesus, our Savior. ***And Jesus certainly is our Helper!***

Just think about your sin! We all need help with our sin and our guilt. We stand condemned before God, without excuse, for things that we have said, and things that we have done, against God and against others. **Because of sin, you deserve to die!** The guilt of your sin fills your hearts and affects your life. Your sin separates you from God and from each other. You know the power of sin in your life.

On your own you are helpless – you would die eternally. You can do nothing to remove your guilt or take away your sin. It is impossible for us to help ourselves.

But what is impossible for us – is possible for God!

Salvation is possible because Jesus is your helper. **He does it all for you.** *What's impossible for you is possible for Him.*

Jesus cares about you! He came into the world to help you and to deliver you. He does what you could not do! Through His life, death and resurrection, He removes your guilt and takes away your sin. He forgives your sins and restores your relationship with God. In Him is life and salvation! Jesus does what you are unable to do! This is how He “helps” you: He rescues you from sin and guilt!

Through faith in Christ, we now live each day knowing that Jesus is our helper. He has proven His love for you on the cross; and promises to care about you each and every day. That is what Psalm 121 is all about: **The Good Lord's care for you!**

Psalm 121:7-8

7 The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Note that the Lord promises to “watch over your life”. The picture behind the phrase “he will watch over your life” is someone watching over something special, like a house or a garden. It means to keep, to guard, and to observe. It has the idea of protection.

In Psalm 121, the idea of **constant vigilance** is highlighted. God is always alert, always aware of what is happening in your life. He never ‘nods off’ nor is He too busy to pay attention to you!

Note how the Psalm describes God's watchfulness:

Psalm 121:3-6

³ He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

Day and night God keeps His eyes on you!

Psalm 121 teaches us that God is never exhausted, He is never weary, and He is never inattentive to you and your needs. Like something extremely special, He constantly watches over you!

Maybe, though, it seems like God doesn't care. Sometimes it is hard to remember that God cares when you are facing difficulties, or when you hurt or when you are in pain. Sometimes it might seem that God doesn't care about you. **Maybe today you are feeling like God has forgotten you. Maybe it seems like He doesn't care and He isn't paying attention to you.** We are all tempted to feel that way. Especially now, with all the fear and uncertainty in the world because of this pandemic.

Martin Luther felt that way too; and here is what he wrote about those kind of feelings:

When we feel this way, “we should remain steadfast in faith and await God’s help and protection. Because even though it appears that God is sleeping or snoring...this is certainly not so, despite the way we feel and think. He is surely awake and watching over us...Eventually we’ll learn that, if we can only hold fast.”

Today “hold fast”, and believe that the Lord is watching over every aspect, and every detail of your life! Day and night God promises to keep His eyes on you! When you are feeling like God doesn't care, then read Psalm 121 over and over again, and believe it!!

In Psalm 121, God stresses and highlights His promise to watch over you. Let me show you. Notice that six times in this Psalm God promises to watch over you. **SIX TIMES!**

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
where does my help come from?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot slip—

He who **watches**
over you will not slumber; ⁴ indeed,

He who **watches**
over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ **The LORD** **watches** over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ **The LORD** will **keep** you from all harm—
He will **watch** over your life.

⁸ **The LORD** will **watch** over your
coming and going
both now and forevermore.

The same Hebrew word is used all six times: and it's the word that means *to watch over something special with constant vigilance*.

3 times, God attaches His Name to the promise with the phrase “*Yahweh will watch over you*”. It is almost as if each person of the Holy Trinity; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, are each making this promise to you because this is so important.

Over and over again, God promises to watch over you!

Today believe that God has promised to watch over every detail of your life. Apply this to your life and your circumstances. Believe that are safely in God's Hands! His eyes are always watching over you. *Your help comes from the Lord!* He constantly is watching over you and guarding you like something extremely valuable.

Finally, let me show you one other connection to Psalm 121.

At the end of our services, we always say the Benediction, whether you go to a traditional service or a contemporary service. The Benediction is from the Book of Numbers, and it goes like this:

May the Lord bless you and keep you May the Lord the make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you Peace. Amen!

The word **keep** in this Benediction is *the same word* that is used in Psalm 121! It is the same as saying “*The Lord will bless you and carefully WATCH OVER YOU!*” The Benediction highlights the idea that God promises to watch over your life at all times and in all circumstances. As you leave worship and go to your home and into your vocation, the Lord once again promises --- and reminds you --- that He is on *constant vigilance over you*.

And this promise of God is over your entire lifetime – even during difficult times like we are living with this pandemic -- He promises to watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore!

AMEN!

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
where does my help come from?

² **My help comes from the LORD,**
the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip—

He who **watches**
over you will not slumber; ⁴ indeed,

He who **watches**
over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ **The LORD watches** over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ **The LORD will keep** you from all harm—

He will **watch** over your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch** over your
coming and going
both now and forevermore.

A Lament:

How Long, O Lord, Will We Be Exiled from Your House?

By Chad Bird

How long, O Lord, will we be exiled from your house?
How long will we dwell in a dry land where there is no water?
How long, O Lord, will you forget us forever?
When shall we come and appear before you?

We were glad when they said,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
But we are cut off, we are estranged, from your courts.
Too long have our souls had their dwelling far from you.
Too long have we hungered for the table of your presence.

Consider and answer us, O Lord, our God.
Do not be deaf to our cry.
Do not be silent at our tears.
Do not close your eyes to our uplifted hands.

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us once more.
Make your face to shine upon your servants once again.
Gather us, as a shepherd gathers the sheep of his flock,
To make us lie down in pastures green with mercy.

Why are you in despair, O my soul?
Why have you become disturbed within me?
Hope in God, for we shall again praise him.
Trust in Christ, for we shall again appear before him.

O Lord, hear our prayer.
O Lord, have mercy.
O Christ, have mercy.
O Lord, have mercy.

Family Talk Time

This take home tool is designed for parents/grandparents and children to discover God is our help, always, everywhere, and through all of life. Use this tool for family faith discussions, adapting for age levels.

When you are in trouble, feeling scared, confused, or unsure what to do,
who do you go to for help? (Discuss as a family.)
Why do you go to the ones you chose?

Read Psalm 121.

What does this teach us about God? Anything surprise you?
The one who made heaven and earth doesn't sleep!
He is always awake, caring for us like a keeper, like a shepherd, and like a good, protective father.
He cares for us as our Savior who suffers, giving His life for us, taking our sins to the cross.
And Jesus rose again defeating all that seeks to destroy us.
He will constantly work to keep you from evil.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.

God is faithful to us, always providing a way out of temptation.
We just look to Him, believe, and obey.
And God Himself even gives us His power to come to Him, trust, and obey.
Psalm 121:8 promises us that our loving God will watch over us
our whole lives long –now and forevermore ... through eternity!

Lord God, we put our trust in You, the Rock of our salvation!

BLESSING

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore. Psalm 121:8

Putting God's Word in our Hearts: Memorize as a Family

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1-2

Mon: Psalm 121:1-2 Tues: Psalm 121:3-4 Wed: Psalm 121:5-6
Thurs: Psalm 121:7-8 Fri: Psalm 121:1-4 Sat: Psalm 121:5-8