

Faith In the Home

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 43, "The Light Has Come, He is Here, and He is Coming in all Fullness."

Do you want some good news? Not only did Jesus Christ die and rise for you, but He is coming again! I cannot tell you when, but I can assure you that He will. I have confidence in sharing this with you because when God makes a promise, He keeps it.

The struggle that we have as God's people is that believing in His promises requires us to faithfully wait and endure in a fallen world. But God gives help. He gives us the gift of prayer to call out to Him, and He doesn't just give us the gift prayer, but His Word in the Psalms give us prayers to help us call out to Him as we wait for Jesus.

Psalm 43 begins with the cry, "Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!" The Psalmist, is experiencing pain for trying to righteously follow God in the midst of unjust deceitful men, or slaves of Satan. He wants God to defend him. Verse 2 says, "For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" Remember, that "we do not battle against flesh and blood, but against the principalities (or demonic forces)." We can feel overwhelmed by everything that Satan throws at us that we can actually feel like God has abandoned us. God in wisdom doesn't punish us for feeling this, but He invites us to pray honestly to Him when we feel like He has abandoned us.

In verse 3 and 4, the Psalmist asks God to, "Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill, and your dwelling! Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre O God, my God." (A quick note, in the context of this written the Psalmist is asking God to lead Him to the temple in Jerusalem where God dwelled on earth, but remember that Jesus declared Himself to be a temple in John 2:19.) Praying these verses reminds us that God did send us His truth and light. Jesus is the Light! He is the Truth! So, we pray this because we need to remember what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. In focusing on Jesus, our joy can be restored and our perseverance can be strengthened. Also, it talks of going to the altar and praising God.

We gather in a sanctuary where we sing hymns, and go receive the sacraments, especially the Sacrament of the Altar also known as the Lord's Supper. We go to Christ,

and we come to worship to have refuge from the oppression of Satan, and we are reminded of Christ's victory.

Jesus is the Light and the Truth. He has come. He is with us in through the Holy Spirit. He is coming again. So, we close with the final verse where we come full circle in the spectrum of emotion. Verse 5 concludes, "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God." When you go to God, you will find restoration in Christ. Finally, no matter where you are, Jesus has come for you, and will come again for you. Jesus is coming!