

Niagara Zone LWML-Study of the Psalms

Love Endures Forever

Luther wrote: This is my own beloved psalm. Although the entire Psalter and all of the Holy Scripture are dear to me as my only comfort and source of life, I fell in love with this psalm especially. Therefore I call it my own." [AE14:45]

"The 118th Psalm is a psalm of thanks and my dearest, most beloved Confitemini [the Latin title of the psalm]. It gives thanks and also prophesies of the Christian and of Christ, the rejected cornerstone.

The psalm is a kindnesses God daily and unceasingly showers on all men, both good and evil. . . .This psalm praises God especially for the greatest benefit He bestowed on the world, namely, for Christ and His kingdom of grace-first promised and now revealed. "(Luther's Works 14:47)

This psalm opens and closes with a call to prayer of thanksgiving: V1, 2-4; V28-29.

Everlasting love V5-7 What can man do to me?

Lord is on my side V8-9

Refuge in the Lord V10-13 "Luther says that persecutors of Christ were life bees that stung His humanity but not His divinity. Believers can also be stung in the same way, but they cannot be destroyed. Bees die when they lose their stingers. The thorns burn quickly, and soon the fire is out. So it is with persecution; its heat cannot last. [AE 11:412-413]

Enemies cut off V14-16

Lord's right hand V17-18 V17 is Luther's own motto [AE14:45, n4] V18 Contrition (remorse and penitent) and God's word offers grace

Lord's discipline V19-21 Ritual approach into temple

Gate of righteousness V 22-24 21 Israel is rejected by her neighbors; foreshadow of the Messiah, God sent from Israel. God builds his nation of believers (Mt 1:42, Rm9:32-33, Eph2:20, 1Pt2:6-8) Salvation is laid (Easter)

"Christ Himself is the foundation of the apostles and the whole Church, and in Him it is fitly framed together." LSB pg.77

Cornerstone V25 Sung by crowds on Palm Sunday (Mt 21:9, Mk11:9, Jn12:13)

Prayer of salvation V26-27

We may wonder, Where is the steadfast love of God? Where is that good action of God for His people?

Let us answer this: He revealed His steadfast love in humble Israel, the Child of the Virgin Mary, veiled His greatest gift in what was least among people so that His gift might be received by all.

Let us bow our head in prayer: Lord Jesus, who bled and died for our sins, and rose again triumphing over Your and our enemies, grat us to be partakers of Your victory, that we, delivered from the hand of them that hate us, may serve You without fear in time and eternity. Amen.