

LWML Sunday 10/7/18
Psalm 62:1-2
"The Rest We Share"

FOR GOD ALONE MY SOUL WAITS IN SILENCE; FROM HIM COMES MY SALVATION. HE ONLY IS MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION, MY FORTRESS; I SHALL NOT BE GREATLY SHAKEN.

So, did you get your national presidential alert on Wednesday? Smart phones, smart tablets, and social media have changed our lives in many ways. They allow us to receive news as it happens and stay in touch with people around the globe.

But at the same time, these forms of communication have, for many, raised the level of fear and uncertainty about their safety and even the future. Alerts like Wednesday, Amber alerts, remind us that we live in an insecure world. Church and school shootings, terrorist acts, and threatening postings are just a few things that have robbed many of a sense of security or peace. It seems hatred and division are on the rise, while love and peace are losing.

Where does a person go for peace and security in an uncertain world like ours? Some days, you just want to be an ostrich and hide your head in the sand. But, hiding will not help.

King David was familiar with the insecurity of his world. David wrote Psalm 62 sharing his own uncertainty and where he found peace and rest. He was now an older man. Look at his words. He uses the phrase, "like a leaning wall, a tottering fence," to describe himself. You don't build a wall to be leaning or a fence to be tottering, but after time this happens to a wall or fence. Weakened by the passing seasons, David was like a leaning wall, a tottering fence. And, he was under a serious attack because of a revolt led by his own son, Absalom.

You might remember that Absalom would rise up early in the morning and stand by the city gate engaging people and telling them how their lives would be better if he were king. The Bible tells us that Absalom “stole the hearts of the men of Israel.” After doing this for four years, he gathered his supporters at Hebron and declared himself king.

When this news came to King David, he had to flee Jerusalem quickly. Most certainly, David was in quite a precarious, dangerous situation. In our Psalm, he shares with us his strong response to threat and uncertainty. This Psalm proclaims David’s strong faith, and it proclaims to us where we find rest and peace when we are confronted with the threats and uncertainties in our world. Rest and peace are found in God alone. He is the rock, fortress, and salvation we need.

This was a lesson the Old Testament Israelites learned. God led them with unmoistened food through the Red Sea waters. In spite of their unfaithfulness and grumbling, God preserved them in the years of wandering in the wilderness and into the Promised Land. Listen to the Apostle Paul as he describes the harrowing journey of God’s people through the wilderness in the Old Testament:

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them.

And, My Dear Friends in Christ, what was the spiritual rock that followed them and sustained them through flood and heat and scarcity and fear? Paul says this: “And the Rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:1–4).

Christ Jesus. What other eternal refuge can there be than the God who sent His only Son to defend us and give His life for us. That’s what the

very Son of God did. The very Son of God took the sin of all the world upon Himself, all of its curse, all of its wages, and carried them to the cross to die as the punishment for them all. Because the Son of God did that, you are free. Just as death passed over the Israelites in Egypt, death and all the curse of sin passes over you, and you a Victor in Christ. The only place you can find lasting rest in this turbulent world is in the One who conquered death and gives you life

“For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken,” David writes (Ps 62:1-2). It’s interesting in our Psalm that David does not use the usual Hebrew word of “rest,” which has more the meaning of a Sunday afternoon nap on the couch. Rather, David uses the word that is translated “silent” or “silence,” as is used in our translation this morning. The reason for that, Dear Saints of God, is that this word means far more than physical rest. It invites us to stand in the presence of Almighty God not saying anything and not bringing anything, but in silence receiving the peace that God our rock and salvation gives us no matter what is happening around us. In other words, no matter what darkness, what turbulence, what storm, what evil, we rest in Christ, the Rock of Ages. In Him we live, and move, and have our being, so that we can live in great confidence and assurance, that no matter who attacks us or what is happening around us. In Jesus we stand before the Father with our soul silent, receiving life abundantly and salvation from Him.

Today, we celebrate and thank God for the ministry of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. For 76 years, the LWML has been supporting mission work nationally and internationally. The women truly are Lutheran Women in Mission, and they are also women of

encouragement. The LWML hasn't just been collecting pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters in their mite boxes; they have also been encouraging women and men in their faith walk to find true rest in God alone.

Over the 76 years of ministry, the LWML has lived through major challenges in our nation and world. Through all of the challenges and uncertainties, the LWML has placed their trust in God and have looked to Him for direction. Lives have been touched through their work and people have received rest that comes from our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Let us be encouraged in our own witness by the witness of the LWML. There are people all around us that struggle with insecurity in this fast-changing world. We have true rest to offer them in a God who loves them and gave His Son for them. Let's live in this rest and share it with others.

David lived in uncertainty and so do we. David received from God a certain physical and emotional rest, and he also received a silence – a rest that nothing in this world of insecurity could take away from him. We have this same assurance as we live in this uncertain age. It is the solid ground we stand on because God is our rock and salvation – the one who loves us and sent His Son to redeem us thereby restoring the right relationship with God, so that daily we can say, "I shall not be greatly shaken."