



# FROM THE PASTOR

## Psalm 70 ~ Of David. (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Hasten, O God, to save me;  
come quickly, LORD, to help me.  
<sup>2</sup> May those who want to take my life  
be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin  
be turned back in disgrace.  
<sup>3</sup> May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"  
turn back because of their shame.  
<sup>4</sup> But may all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who long for your saving help  
always say,  
"The LORD is great!"  
<sup>5</sup> But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
come quickly to me, O God.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
LORD, do not delay.

The beautiful hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", is basically the anthem of the Lutheran tradition in the Christian Church. I love every verse of that hymn. Let me share with you the beautiful second verse:

***No strength of ours can match his [the devil's] might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.***

It is a powerful reminder of our need for a Savior. When I am being attacked by sin, death and the devil, I need all the help I can get. In fact, I need someone to do the fighting for me, because I am completely incapable. I can't even get out of my own way, but I have a champion to fight my fight for me: Christ Jesus, my Lord. On the cross the battle was

fought and the grave, which entrapped Jesus, was forced to give Him up! My grave will be forced to give me up because of Jesus' victory.

King David knew what it was like to face attacks. David fought Goliath, the Philistine giant. He even fought treachery by his own son, Absalom. While those around him saw a strong and resolute leader, David knew that he was far from his public persona. But David knew he had a champion to fight for him. David frames this psalm with a call to God. **"Hasten, O God, to save me; come quickly, LORD, to help me. But as for me, I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; LORD, do not delay."** This reminds me of another beautiful psalm, not directly attributed to David, that I shared with you in a previous meditation, Psalm 121: 1-2:

**<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?  
<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Psalm 70 is our Psalm in our worship service this Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. I intend to point out in my sermon that King David is not only praying for himself in this psalm, but David is also praying for us in our struggles. David is praying for us in our need for a savior. **"But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, 'The LORD is great!'"**



# FROM THE PASTOR

In our current world, which seems so far removed from the world in which King David lived, it is good to remind ourselves that we have One who has fought the ultimate battle for us and is standing with us to fight the daily battles of our lives. Psalm 70 is a good psalm to read when we feel overwhelmed or out of control. We do indeed have a champion on our side. In fact, we have THE champion on our side. Call on our champion freely and often.

In Christ's service,  
*Pastor Brian Shirey*

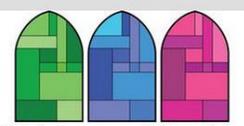
## *Post Scripts:*

- † Our lessons for this Sunday, November 8, the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, are:  
First Reading: Amos 5:18-24  
Psalm 70  
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
- † I don't know about you, but I like handing out treats on trick or treat night. I get to see neighborhood children and parents. I get to visit with neighbors who are also out giving treats. It is sort of like a mini-block party. It is usually the last time of the year when we are all on our porches or in our front yards. Before you know it, it's Thanksgiving and then Christmas. The time between the end of October and the end of December seems to fly away. I think this is even more so in this age of COVID. So, as I have said so often, thank you for your patience and your faithfulness.
- † Happily, we are now able to live-stream worship on YouTube. Please spread the word. It is one more tool for living out our life together at St. Luke's. Thank you to Kelly Weston and all who help us take advantage of new opportunities. Visit the St. Luke's YouTube channel or go to [stlks.com](https://www.stlks.com) and click on the Welcome to Worship icon. You can also view past services.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

🔔 **LIVESTREAM SUNDAY SERVICE**

Joins us November 8th  
10:45 am



Welcome to Worship  
CLICK HERE TO LIVESTREAM.

🔔 **WATCH WORSHIP**

[November 1, 2020 worship service](#)

[October 25, 2020 worship service](#)

