



The metaphor of God as a shield is ancient: “Perhaps David remembered a promise made a thousand years before ... ‘Fear not Abram,’ the ancient words had run, ‘I am thy shield [māgēn] and exceeding great reward’ (Gen. 15:1).” Moses restates that truth in a praise song: “Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is your shield [māgēn] and helper and your glorious sword” (Deut. 33:29). Not surprisingly, the warrior king picks up on this ancient credo in his triumphant praise song after he has defeated all his enemies: “I AM is my ... shield [māgēn] and the horn of my salvation” (2 Sam. 22:2–3). Today too, the Christian is “strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” [... with the shield of faith.] (Eph. 6:10,16). (Psalms as Christian Worship, p. 201.)

“Just as David, who had built Jerusalem, was driven out into a wilderness, so also Christ, by whom ‘the world was made,’ was driven out into the wilderness. As Shimei taunted David, so the crowd at the foot of the cross mocked Jesus.” (Erasmus)

“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” 44 And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. Matt 27.42-44

August 31, 2014

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Lord’s Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen*

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

Giving Worship to God: Offering

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. Twenty percent of gifts also go to local and global mission, including Samaritan Health Clinic, Justice Matters, Young Life, and church planting in N. American and Asia.)

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Psalms 3; 2 Samuel 15.10-14*

A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

1 O Lord, how many are my foes!
Many are rising against me;
2 many are saying of my soul,
there is no salvation for him in God. Selah
3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.
4 I cried aloud to the Lord,
and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah
5 I lay down and slept;
I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.
6 I will not be afraid of many thousands of
people who have set themselves against me
all around.
7 Arise, O Lord!
Save me, O my God!
For you strike all my enemies on the
cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.
8 Salvation belongs to the Lord;
your blessing be on your people! Selah

10 But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, ‘Absalom is king at Hebron!’ ” 11 With Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their innocence and knew nothing. 12 And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing. 13 And a messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.” 14 Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, “Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword.”

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Prayer in Trial

1. *The Story of David’s Great Trial*
2. *The Prayer of David’s Great Trial: Address, Lament, Confidence, Petition, Bless Others*
3. *The Savior of All Our Trials*

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

O Lord, you call us to pray. David prayed in his great trial. Help us to pray.

Our Father, you answered David. You, yourself were his answer. You saved his situation but first You were his Shield, his Glory, the Lifter of his Head. Because of You, he was no longer afraid.

Lord Jesus, you were faithful in Your great trial on the cross. You bowed your head dying for my sins. But God raised you, lifting your head, in the resurrection. So now, You are my Shield, my Glory, the Lifter of my head.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart. (Psalm 7.10)

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second Sunday, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

**Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb 13.20-21)

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to you yourself and the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.
