

Second Sunday After the Epiphany – 2023  
Saturday, 1/14 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/15 at 9:00



Text: Psalm 40:1-11 ESV

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Sometimes our lives can be so difficult – *that a good outcome seems impossible*. Whenever that is true, *let us remember **Psalm 40***.

This Psalm points to the LORD's help in three ways:

- To David – *when Saul was seeking to kill him*.
- To Jesus – *when He suffered and died for our salvation*.
- To us – *in our times of great difficulty*.

Even though we may be tempted to give up, *let us be inspired by David and Jesus! Then, let us trust in the LORD!*

1. **I waited patiently for the LORD** [that is, God the Father]; **He** [the LORD] **inclined** [stretched, drew near] **to me and heard my cry**. // As life becomes *increasingly difficult*, it is normal for us to become *increasingly impatient*. But think about David and Jesus, *they waited patiently – confident that the LORD* ♦knew their needs, ♦heard

their prayers, and ✨would act at the right time. *Let us do the same!*

2. **He [the LORD] drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog** *[that is, a muddy clay swamp],*

**and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.** // When David was being hunted and Jesus was being flogged, *they may have felt like they were trapped in a pit with a muddy clay bottom. But, at the right time, the LORD changed everything – **from quicksand to solid rock!** So, let us keep trusting in the LORD, and never give up!*

3. **He [the LORD] put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.**

**Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.** // Since the LORD delivered David from death and raised the body of Jesus to life, *they praised the LORD as a testimony to others.* Since we know of the powerful work of the LORD in our lives, let us ✨praise the LORD and ✨encourage others to trust Him for heaven and everything in this life.

4. **Blessèd is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!** // When it comes to trust, we have options: ✨the LORD God Almighty, ✨arrogant people who seem to have all the answers, or ✨false gods. The choice should be simple; let us trust in the Almighty God who ☹made us, ☹loves us, ☹sustains us, and ☹saved us!

5. **You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!**

**I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.** // Try to imagine what the LORD has done for you during your lifetime... Dr. Luther asked: What is meant by daily bread? Then he answered: **“Daily bread includes *everything* that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”** So, let us ▶remember such things, ▶express our thanks, ▶live with gratitude, and ▶tell others about the LORD!

(Regarding [verses 6-8](#), compare with [Hebrews 10:5-7](#).)

6. **Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear.**

**Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.** // Why did the LORD command people to sacrifice? To touch their hearts, to get them ▶thinking about their sins, ▶having godly sorrow, and ▶trusting in the coming Messiah. **David** was a man after the LORD’s own heart ([1 Samuel 13:14](#)) and **Jesus** is the sinless Son of God, so *the LORD heard their prayers.* What about us? **“The LORD is far from the wicked [*unrepentant*], But He hears the prayer of the righteous [*repentant*]”** ([Prov. 15:29](#)).

7. **Then I said, “Behold, I have come;**

**in the scroll of the book it is written of me:** // *Those words should draw us right to Jesus: He willingly came to ▶fulfill the law for us and ▶bear our sins; He fulfilled hundreds of OT prophecies!*

8. **I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.** // Again, we focus on *Jesus*: His desire to do God's will was perfect, He did not back down, even when facing the excruciating †pain, †agony, and †torment of death on a cross!
9. **I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation** [*God's people gathered at the tabernacle, temple*]; **behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.** // Since, through *Jesus*, the LORD has †snatched us from hell and †gifted us with heaven, how are we making that known? As we live in this fallen world, all believers are being called to **speak** and **live** in ways that †honor the LORD and †point others to repent and receive God's forgiveness.
10. **I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.** // Since the LORD is being *SO GOOD TO US*, let us openly, boldly, and lovingly tell of His †deliverance, †faithfulness, †salvation, and †steadfast love!
11. **As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!** // The LORD's mercy is when He holds back the punishment we deserve now and forever!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear LORD, we are in awe of Your incredible goodness to us poor sinners. *Help us to make You known!*

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