

Third Sunday of Easter – 2025

Saturday, 5/3 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/4 at 9:00

Who Are You Relying On?

You



OR The Holy Trinity



Text: Psalm 30 NAS-20

Introduction: Dear friends: Many in the United States have resources, such as ▶decent health, ▶employment or pension, ▶money in a bank (94%), ▶family and friends, ▶etc.!

- **Unbelievers** rely on *themselves and their resources*.
- **Believers** are called to rely on *the Holy Trinity*.

Backstory: Later in David’s 40-year reign over Israel, he ordered that the fighting men in all Israel be counted. When we count our resources, *we show our reliance upon them*.

The LORD disciplined David by sending a plague on Israel, which resulted in the death of 70,000 men (2 Sam. 24; 1 Chr. 21). To express his repentance, David ▶bought land, ▶built an altar, and ▶offered a sacrifice to the LORD.

In This Sermon: We focus on **Psalm 30**, which “**was likely written to dedicate this land, the place where God’s temple would later be built**” (TLSB).

1. **Praise the LORD for His Healing:** David had been severely ill, near death, *but the LORD helped him and healed him.* So, David wrote: ¹ **I will exalt** [*praise*] **You, LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my enemies rejoice over me.** ² **LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me.** ³ **LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol** [*the grave – since I had almost died*]; **You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit.**
 - a. When We Become Ill, We may be Tempted to Rely on Ourselves and Our Resources: ✓ **I** will take some over-the-counter medicine, ✓ **I** will drink more fluids, and ✓ **I** will get more sleep. If I'm still not feeling well, ✓ **I** will go to my doctor or ✓ **I** will seek emergency help.
 - b. David Relied on the LORD: David, *an OT believer*, ✦prayed, ✦the LORD heard, ✦the LORD showed him mercy, and ✦the LORD restored his health. *Then David gave the proper response of hearty praise!*

2. **Praise the LORD for His Goodness:** ⁴ **Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones** [*who are trusting in the Messiah*], **And praise the mention** [*the remembrance*] **of His holiness.** ⁵ **For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.**
 - a. The LORD Has Transformed Us: We have sinned, so He has sent His Son to ✦wash us clean and ✦make us holy in His sight! *Therefore, let us praise Him!*
 - b. The LORD Disciplines Us: When **believers** begin to sin without repentance, the LORD causes us to struggle – *because ✦He loves us and ✦wants us to repent.* When we do, *He restores us, and we praise Him!*

3. **The Proud Will Fall:** ⁶ Now as for me, I said in my prosperity, “I will never be moved.” ⁷ LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain to stand strong; You hid Your face, I was dismayed.
- I Can Do It:** David looked at his ✓greatest and ✓vast resources, then he said, “I will never be moved.” He forgot about the source of his greatness – *it was not himself, but the LORD*. Paul warned the Corinthians: “...let the one who thinks he stands **watch out** that he does not fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).
 - The LORD Shut Off His Blessings:** That was for David’s own good, *to show him his sin*. Many others need the same treatment today – before it is too late to repent!
4. **It Is Good to Confess Our Sins:** ⁸ To You, LORD, I called, And to the Lord I pleaded for compassion [*mercy*]: ⁹ “What gain is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit [*to my death*]? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness? ¹⁰ “Hear, LORD, and be gracious to me; LORD, be my helper.”
- Confession Must Be True:** David wrote in **Psalm 145:** “The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth” (18). David was not deserving of the LORD’s forgiveness, *nor are we*. David pleaded for mercy – *asking the LORD to* ♦hold His punishment and ♦gift him with forgiveness.
 - Trust Has Returned:** David had fallen into relying on himself, but, *by the Holy Spirit*, he ♦repented and ♦returned to his reliance on the LORD, calling Him “my helper.” If we need to do the same, *let us quickly repent and return* (Acts 3:19)!

5. **Hearty Thanks:** ¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing for me; You have untied my sackcloth and encircled me with joy, ¹² That *my* soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

- a. From Very Low: David ➔ had turned to himself, ➔ brought great trouble on his nation, ➔ had become severely ill, and ➔ was headed for death.
- b. To Very High: *By the grace of God,* David ➔ saw his sin, ➔ pleaded with the LORD, and ➔ received mercy.
 - i. David's mourning had become dancing!
 - ii. David's sackcloth had become silk!
 - iii. David's heart was full of joy!
 - iv. David's lips were full of praise to the LORD!

Prayer: Consider this passage: ^{NIV} **Proverbs 30:8-9** "Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."

Dear LORD, blessings are wonderful, **but** they can entice us to trust in them rather than in You. Therefore, help us to ➔ learn from Your word and ➔ always rely on You – **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!** And all God's people said: Amen!

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