

Proper 8 ~ July 2, 2023

Psalm 13

¹How much longer will you forget me, Lord? Forever? How much longer will you hide yourself from me?

²**How long must I endure trouble? How long will sorrow fill my heart day and night? How long will my enemies triumph over me?**

³Look at me, O Lord my God, and answer me. Restore my strength: don't let me die.

⁴**Don't let my enemies say, "We have defeated him." Don't let them gloat over my downfall.**

⁵I rely on your constant love. I will be glad, because you will rescue me.

⁶**I will sing to you, O Lord, because you have been good to me.**

Genesis 22: 1-14

¹Some time later God tested Abraham; he called to him, "Abraham!" And Abraham answered, "Yes, here I am!" ²"Take your son," God said, "your only son, Isaac, whom you love so much, and go to the land of Moriah. There on a mountain that I will show you, offer him as a sacrifice to me" ³Early the next morning Abraham cut some wood for the sacrifice, loaded his donkey, and took Isaac and two servants with him. They started out for the place that God had told him about. ⁴On the third day Abraham saw the place in the distance. ⁵Then he said to the servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there and worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶Abraham made Isaac carry the wood for the sacrifice, and he himself carried a knife and live coals for starting the fire. As they walked along together, ⁷Isaac spoke up, "Father!" He answered, "Yes my son?" Isaac asked, "I see that you have the coals and the wood, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" ⁸Abraham answered, "God himself will provide one." And the two of them walked on together. ⁹When they came to the place which God had told him about, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he picked up the knife to kill him. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" He answered, "Yes, here I am." ¹²"Don't hurt the boy or do anything to him," he said, "Now I know that you have obedient reverence for God, because you have not kept back your only son from him." ¹³Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught in a bush by its horns. He went and got it and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

¹⁴Abraham named that place "The Lord Provides." And even today people say, "On the Lord's mountain he provides."

Romans 6:12-23

¹²Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. ²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 10:40-42

⁴⁰"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."