

Trust in the Lord Your Rock

1. **Through Your Present Problems**
2. **For Your Future Deliverance**

Palm Sunday – Bittersweet for Jesus

- PS must've been bittersweet day for Savior. Sweet: Hears sweet, beautiful praises of worshipers lining his path with palms branches, singing Hosannas. Also bitter: knew what this holy week bring. Could even see places where events unfold. Place where gets on donkey on PS at top Mt. Olives; between him and Jerusalem (also on mnt) deep valley. So as mounts donkey on crest of Mt. Olives, from his perspective he can see everything: below him (not far), Garden Geth, sweat blood in prayer to Father before betrayed by one own; looked to city, Upper Room, where inst HC in few days; courtyard of high priest, where face meet fists, spit; palace of PP, where crowned thorn, sentenced to death; just past far wall of city, skull shaped hill, new tomb, both waiting for his arrival. Bittersweet.
- Nevertheless, Jesus rides down into valley, through happy crowds, into city of death; would've done so even if no happy Hosannas being sung, because trusted Lord his Rock.
- Today in Is, happy song; **vs. 1a**. Song that reminds us of PS; **vs. 2a**, just like Ps 24 (sang earlier): **“Lift up heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in” (Ps 24:7)**. Today, King of glory rides through gates into city of death, trusting in Lord his Rock.
- Maybe you, in your life right now, at crest of hill; from perspective can look down, see all troubles are facing or soon will be: troubles in marriage, with children, health, finances. I know many members of our cong (many you!) going through very diff times right now. Maybe you: overwhelmed, discouraged, not sure can handle all, wonder if God even with you. Today's song in Isa is song for you, because this song all about trust. **Vs. 4**. Title of this song: trust in the Lord your Rock.

Trust in the Lord Your Rock, Through Your Present Problems

- Trust through present problems. **Vs. 3**. KJV of this verse (fav for lots): **“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”** To be “steadfast, stayed on thee” = God supporting, sustaining you; you on strong foundation, resting firmly on God. Remember sub? Also, lighthouses along Lake MI; many on end of long, concrete breakwater or pier. One day, really windy; waves up onto pier, us. But that's nothing compared to what happens in fierce storms. Pics huge waves completely washing over pier. You can imagine: ship's crew scrambling to tie ship down to pier in middle storm; exhausted sailors holding onto pier for dear life. That's what pier was built for: rock solid support to sustain ships, sailors during fiercest of storms.
- That's what Isa calls God in song. **Vs. 3-4**. When fiercest of storms blow into your life, sometimes scramble to steady ship, sometimes all can do is hold onto pier for dear life; just trying to weather storm, not to drown. Maybe you right now; hunch for some it is. Never forget this truth: Lord is your Rock; your Lake MI pier. No matter how severe the storm, he's not going to budge. Hold onto this Rock, pier for dear life; means trusting in God by faith. He will not let waves wash you away. **Vs. 4**.
- That passage, theme verse for this school year. Narthex/school posters of that verse. I picked this verse for school year because of all challenges faced recently, namely all principal calls we've had returned to us. That's a storm; but Lord is our Rock. Going through divorce, storm, rock; struggling to pay bills; suffering with cancer. Whatever your storm, present problems, trust in Lord your rock.
- That's what Jesus did! On crest of Mt. Olives that PS, he could see storm brewing before him. But with **“mind stayed on [God],”** was **“steadfast.”** Trusted in his Father, his Rock; and rode into Jerusalem to save us. This song in Isa urges us: trust in Lord your Rock through present problems.

Trust in the Lord Your Rock, for Your Future Deliverance

- Also, trust future del. In this song, Isa points our eyes to future: **vs. 19**. This one of clearest passages re res of dead in whole OT. I know Easter full week away. But Lent doesn't just prepare for Jesus' death; also res. With this passage Isa preparing us for the res, as well. Res implies death taking place. We all face death; may not like think about; but death is definitely (unless Jesus returns) in our future. But God wants us view death as a sleep, because death something we wake up from. **Vs. 19ab "wake up."** Remember last week's Gospel, Lazarus? **"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up" (Jn 11:11)**. Death is a sleep from which wake up. Evening hymn: *"Teach me to live that I may dread the grave as little as my bed. Teach me to die so that I may rise glorious at the awe-full (awe-filled) day"* (CW 592:2). Death is a sleep from which wake up.
- In 5/4 short days on GF, we'll see Jesus fall asleep. First tortured, nailed to cross; then, breathe last, fall asleep. Then on Easter Sunday, we'll watch Jesus wake up from his sleep! Because Jesus woke up, we know we will, too. On great day of res, **vs. 19c "the earth..."** We raised to life; live with Jesus (soul/body!) in heaven forever. This is our future deliverance – res from dead on Last Day.
- Thinking re our future del also makes us recall God's past deliverance. **Vs. 12b "Lord,...all."** We give God credit for delivering us in the past. As NT Christians, our great del in past is res of Jesus. But for OT believers, their great del in past (what always focused on) was Exodus from slavery in Egypt – everything from plagues to Passover to parting Red Sea – that their great del in past.
- Remember 10th plague in Exodus? Angel of death struck down every firstborn male unless blood of Passover lamb painted on doorposts? I can't help think re that 10th plague when I read **vs. 20** (or passed over). God's deliverance also means judgment. In 10th plague: delivered faithful Hebrew people, also brought judgment on unbelieving Egyptians. On Last Day, at res of all flesh, God will deliver his faithful people to everlasting life in heaven; also bring judgment on all unbelievers who reject Jesus as Savior. Del and judg hand in hand. Why Isa: **vs. 20-21a**. Judgment Day, for many, will be day of wrath, mourning. But for us, who trust in Lord our Rock, it will be the day of our great deliverance; and we look forward to that future deliverance.

Conclusion

- Today in Isa, we have song of praise; whole song about trusting in the Lord our Rock. We sing: **vs. 9a**. So night, day, whatever the present problems we're facing in life, we pray God to strengthen our trust in him. That prayer is answered when we remember PS Savior who, sitting on donkey at top of hill, could see storm brewing before him, rode into city of death anyway, to save us. That's what we'll see this Holy Week; that's what'll strengthen our trust in Rock of our salvation; that's what'll give us confidence for our future del on Last Day. Dear Christians, sing song with Isa, and **vs. 4**.

Isaiah 26:1-4, 8-9, 12-13, 19-21

¹In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. ²Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. ³You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. ⁴Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.

⁸Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. ⁹My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.

¹²LORD, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us. ¹³LORD our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but your name alone do we honor.

¹⁹But your dead will live, LORD; their bodies will rise—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead. ²⁰Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. ²¹See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed on it; the earth will conceal its slain no longer.