

Sermon in a nutshell: “With my voice I cry to the Lord.” (Psalm 142:1-7)
March 13, 2022 **Pastor Lee**

A Maskil of David. When he was in the cave. A Prayer.

During our faith journey, we come to a certain point where we cannot continue our walk. We have done everything we can and still nothing happens. We are desperate and hopeless. Then God carries us on.

David wrote this psalm when he was in the cave. David devoted his life to God and his country. He fought for his king. He killed the enemy of the nation, Goliath. However, King Saul tried to kill him out of envy. David fled from King Saul. He ran away from his own country. He hid in a cave.

Then he said, “With my voice I cry to the Lord; with my voice I make supplication to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit is faint, you know my way.”

We feel that we are in trap!

We are just small number of people. There are forces too big for us to control. We do not know what to do with the COVID-19 pandemic, international conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, China and other countries, domestic division between red and blue states, and the denominational crisis with uncertain future. We are frustrated to see the numbers of homeless people, decline of our churches, transition of our beloved ones from here to heaven.

David prays, saying, “In the path where I walk, they have hidden a trap for me. Look on my right hand and see—there is no one who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for me.”

Now we pray!

We do not try to solve all the problems with our wisdom and skills. They are beyond our abilities. We are just dust who will go back to dust. However, we are also God’s children who can pray to God our Father. Now we pray. David prays. I cry to you, O Lord; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.” Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low.

We pray with faith

We are not saved yet. David prays, saying “Save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name.” He was still in a cave. We are still in this tunnel. We do not know when we can come out of it. Still, we pray with faith.

We will have witnesses as we have witnessed God's mighty acts.

David expressed his faith in God in this way: "The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me." It did not happen yet. David was still praying in a cave. His situation was still dark. However, he had a vision. In his vision, he saw the righteous surrounding him. He believed that God would deal bountifully with him. As God did. God saved him from persecution and made him a king for Israel. It took many decades. God's time is different from our times. However, we know the direction of God's movement. That is why we do not give up our hope. We know the direction. We just do not know the speed. The same salvation that David experienced, we will experience. The same God who walked with David is walking with us. Even though we go through the valley of the shadow of death, we fear no evil because God's rod and staff protect us and guide us. We are dust, but God is our Shepherd. We are the quick, but God is the eternal. May God be with us always during this Lent and help us to see Easter!