

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. Psalm 130:1-2

Psalm 130 is among the Psalms subtitled 'A song of ascents', songs that pilgrims to Jerusalem, including Jesus and his followers, would sing on their way to the city. It is a song of repentance, sung by someone who fully trusts in a just and merciful God and who believes that God's redemptive love saves.

When we need help, we tend to go to someone we trust, where we are confident our call for help will be answered. The bigger our need the louder our pleading. Let us join with the psalmist as he calls on the one we can trust, and at the top of our voices call for sympathy and pity.

Lord our throats are raw and our voices hoarse from crying to you 'have mercy on us'.

³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

The granting of forgiveness creates a special bond between the forgiver and the forgiven. With God's forgiveness the bond is not of servitude but of service, God's forgiveness is given freely and unequivocally, it doesn't bind us but instead sets us free. We in turn and by our free will worship God.

Lord Jesus we worship you, your love for humankind brought you among us to die on the Cross so that we are freed from sin and death, so that we may gain eternal life.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

I am beginning to expect in the morning an item on the news telling us we are entering the beginning of the end of this catastrophe, that infection numbers are reducing, less people needing intensive care, that no deaths are reported. My impatience is yet to be rewarded. Let us keep in our minds that as dawn is inevitable and the sun will rise, so it is with God, He will answer.

- Lord reward our impatience, let your radiance rise on this world and on each one of us.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

We have a God who never fails to fulfil our hopes, who answers our prayers. As we enter Holy Week, this year, we know a little of the Passion of Jesus, his isolation, his fear. Many will experience the constricted breathing that hanging on the cross induces. Let's remember that beyond the suffering we get to celebrate His and our Resurrection. In the next few days, we will be reminded of God's unfailing love for us. We will rise again with Jesus as God's forgiven children.

- Lord, we believe that your love will redeem us. Hear our cry as we call to you 'have mercy on us'.

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