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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

March 27, 2011

Psalm 95 (The Message)

*Come, let's shout praises to God, raise the roof for the Rock who saved us!
Let's march into his presence singing praises, lifting the rafters with our hymns!
And why? Because God is the best, High King over all the gods.
In one hand he holds deep caves and caverns, in the other hand grasps the high mountains.*

He made Ocean—he owns it! His hands sculpted Earth!

*So come, let us worship: bow before him, on your knees before God, who made us!
Oh yes, he's our God, and we're the people he pastures, the flock he feeds.*

Romans 5 (The Message) Developing Patience

We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling short changed. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue in this season of lent and we seek to grow daily in our walk with God praise becomes more and more a daily activity. God has provided ... all we have. God has provided love in his Son. God continues to provide ... our daily breath ... and bread.

For all the provisions God has made for us God deserves our thanks and praise.

We give Him thanks for our very lives. We would not be alive if He had not created planet earth just as it is; just the right distance from the sun for warmth; just the right size for gravity to hold us on its surface; just the right atmosphere for us to breathe; just the right soil for us to grow food; just right in every way for us to live here.

We give Him thanks for one another. We're not perfect but just think how lonely we'd be without friends and family. And what a wonderful extra privilege to be part of a Church family. We are not just part of a human gathering of believers. This family is part of the greater family of all God's people who have been loved by and faithful to Him since the beginning of time. We are part of this particular family and were invited to become children of God, brothers and sisters of Christ. By faith we are accepted to enter this relationship through the door Jesus opened at Calvary. This relationship is eternal and continues after this earthly life in God's timeless Kingdom of love.

Best of all we have the indwelling Spirit of God to walk beside us daily through whatever changes may come. No wonder Paul writes *'We can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!'*

Father we can't begin to earn such blessings. Ours only to praise and give thanks for them.

Amen. (Rev.) John McGurrin