



Mount Ararat – God Remembers

“We are going up to Jerusalem where the Son of Man will be delivered...”

L. God’s mercy, grace, and peace be with you.

C. And also with you.

L. Psalm 121. A Song of Ascents

**C. ¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?**

**² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

**³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;**

**⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**⁵ The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;**

**⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

**⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;**

**⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.**

L. Lord God, you never slumber nor sleep, but your eyes are always open to our needs. Watch over our welfare on this difficult journey, shade us from the dangers that surround and deliver us from the sin within us; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who died that we might live and who lives that we might never die.

C. Amen.

MOUNT ARARAT – GOD REMEMBERS (Genesis 8:1-5; 15-16b, 18-23)

Noah and his family were on the ark for 150 days before the waters began to recede. Do you consider that long or a short time? Why? Have you experienced a time of waiting and wondering?

The Psalmist writes, “How long, O Lord? How long will you forget me forever?” (Psalm 13) Do you think that is asked out of despair or faith?

Jesus once described the days before the flood as a time when people were “eating and drinking, building and planting, marrying and giving in marriage.” In and of themselves, those are good things. What, however, was missing as they went about those things that God would observe, “every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood”? What activities do you undertake without “remembering”?

God remembered Noah and you! Is there a part of the flood account that amazes you? Is there something that you struggle with? Remember, the whole Bible is written to show how God kept his promise to save us. How can that help us with things that may be hard to understand in the Bible?

God does forget and “remembers our sin no more.” Psalm 103. What sins in your life still bother you? What does forgiveness at the cross say to that?

Remember with Noah this Lent, God’s love, His remembering in Christ, and your baptism which connects you to Jesus. Read Romans 6:1-14.

Lord, I know I forget your promises, your power, and your love; yet you never forget me. Too often I want to steer my own ship. I like to set the course and know where I want to go. And then there is the flood I am responsible for, the sin that overwhelms me and sweeps me away from you and those I love. I feel so small and frightened, all because of my unbelief. Let me remember that you took me aboard the ark of your Church. When you baptized me, you set the course. You know where we are sailing and where we will land. Therefore, I will cling to your promises knowing you will always keep me close to you. How could I do otherwise when I look to that hill which held the cross of your dear Son? There - is love. There - you forget my sins. There you hold out to me a promise that you will always remember me. Amen.

GOD'S WORD

The traditional Scripture reading during midweek Lent services usually centers on the Passion History of our Lord. Unlike the ordinary meaning of the word passion, the meaning of this word as it applies to the series of readings during Lent is based on the ancient original Latin (passio) and Greek (pascha) which speak of suffering as reflected in our contemporary word compassion ("suffering with someone"). This year we hear Luke's account of our Savior's suffering.

#1 – Luke 22:1-38

At the close of the reading:

M: All we like sheep have gone astray,

C: And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

M: By his wounds we are healed.

CLOSING PRAYER

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying – and all for your love's sake in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.

Or

M: The almighty and merciful Lord – the Father, the Son (†) and the Holy Spirit –
bless us and keep us.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN OF LENT

Jesus Refuge of the Weary (CW#108)

**1 Jesus, Refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above,
Oh, how oft your eyes, offended, Gaze upon a sinner's fall!
Yet, upon the cross extended, You endured the pain of all.**

**2 Dare we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
As we see you wounded, bleeding, See your thorn-encircled brow?
Since your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest,
Only what your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.**

**3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for you!
May our eyes be ever turning To behold your cross anew,
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified!**

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.