**Psalms Of Advent:**

**Let Me Hear What God The Lord Will Speak**

**Psalm 85**

Mid-week Advent 3

12.15.2021

Our text for meditation today is the Psalm that we read responsively.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What would like to have spoken to you by your God? What would you most like to hear Him say to you? I our Gospel lesson, Was John hoping to hear Jesus say, “I free you from prison?” Do you want to hear God speak to you…Here is your new boat? Your cancer is healed? I remove all your financial concerns? I will not let you wither like the grass?

In our text, here is what the Psalmist said: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints. The desire of Israel was to hear God the Lord speak peace to his people.

Is peace the end of all war? Is peace about ending hatred toward all people? Yes, both those ideas of peace would be wonderful things. I bring this up because, as we approach Christmas, I again hear the angels’ words to the shepherds on that Judean hillside announcing Jesus’ birth quoted to push an agenda of world peace. You know the account to which I refer?

 The shepherds were out in the fields, they’d been told about Christ’s birth by the angel... And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2:13 14 KJV)

Yes, I have again heard the song of the angels being quoted as God’s desire that all war and bloodshed on earth would end. People claim that this angelic message of God is an appeal to you and me, and all people, to strive for peace across the globe, in our cities, and with all we meet in our daily lives. I have even heard it now as an appeal that you send your money to help abused animals get the help they need.

Dearly beloved of God, you and I should strive for peace in our relationships with all people. We should strive for world peace. We are indeed to be faithful in our stewardship of His creation as it has been entrusted to us. But this angelic message is about way more than earthly peace. This angelic proclamation of peace is wrapped up in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. For that particular story we need to wait another ten days.

Today, we are blessed to have the opportunity to look back about a thousand years before the birth of Jesus. We look back to hear the historic advent cry of God’s people, “Hosanna – that is – save now.” We listen to what God’s children have always wanted God the Lord to speak to them – a declaration of peace.

Listen again to a portion of our text:

 Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints.

During this Advent season there are many who are running hither, thither and yon, looking for that perfect gift. Last year’s present made someone angry, peace was broken. There are conversations in families about who will be present for Christmas. And why? Because broken relationships have shattered the peace in some families and there is concern that someone’s presence will ruin the holidays.

What is it that can bring peace to these families? Forgiveness!

We find ourselves in broken relationships with our all neighbors – even with our own family members – this is the shattering of peace. Forgiveness brings peace, for it was sinfulness – our sinfulness and the sinfulness of others – that has broken those relationships, shattering peace.

More importantly, as we ponder our relationship with God, our sinfulness stares us in the face and we wonder if we have peace with God. We know of our sinfulness and wonder if heaven is in our future, for we have not been perfect. All this is rightly pondered, our sinfulness means that we are at enmity with God – our flesh wars with God, so God tells us. (Rom. 8:6-8)

You want to hear God speak peace to you? Pay close attention this Christmas. Hear the message which God commanded the angels to speak to you. Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This Savior is God’s peace on earth, good will (from God) toward men. For that Child was born solely to bring peace by taking your sins and mine to the cross. There is peace with God, for in Christ Jesus, God’s wrath against sin is appeased, this is a peace which surpasses all understanding. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, He is the enfleshed speaking of God.

He is the Word of peace, forgiveness paid in full by the blood of Christ, which God desires to give to you. He wants you to be at peace, your heart filled with Christ, living in the forgiveness He purchased for you. It is this Word that He desires you to hear, He desires to speak peace to you, His people.

What does the Lord God desire to speak to His people? Peace! “Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

What does the Lord God desire to speak to His people? Peace! “Take eat this is My Body. Take drink, this is My blood of the new covenant, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin.” “The true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith, to life everlasting. Peace be with you!”

What does the Lord God desire to speak to His people? Peace! “The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to his people, to his saints. Hear and receive what the Lord God desires to speak to you, His peace, the forgiveness of your sin. Know that where there is forgiveness of sins, God also delivers eternal life and salvation. Christ comes to you, your eternal peace. Amen.

Once more now, God’s is declared and delivered to you, just as after every sermon – “The peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Amen