

3rd Sunday in Advent
“Blessed endurance in the Lord”
James 5:7-11
December 14, 2025
Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 3rd Sunday in Advent is from our
Epistle reading James 5:7-11.

“7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

So far the text:

We count them blessed who endure, who persevere like Job, who are patient like the farmer waiting on the autumn and spring rains.

Blessed – happy – joyful in the Lord. Can’t I just be blessed without all this patience stuff...all this suffering stuff? Shouldn’t this Christian religion, if it is the one and only true religion, be all about making my life more easy and comfortable?

You know, I can do my Christmas shopping in minutes. My brother puts something on his wish list, I click on Amazon, buy it and it’s delivered the next day with a message and in a gift bag if I pay extra. Well, my brother doesn’t care about the gift bag, so I saved a little money there...

Shouldn’t our Christian religion be one of ease and convenience with no frustrations?
Can’t it be more like Amazon?

Well, as we all know, there isn't a product on Amazon that you can click on and buy called "happiness"...or heaven...or eternal life. You may think you'll be happy if you buy more stuff, or get the best Black Friday sales, but that doesn't work. You're always left wanting. But, there is a Black Friday that I will tell you about in a moment that will give you absolute happiness.

But first, why the suffering in our lives? Why did Job lose his stuff, his livestock, his servants, his family and even his health? Why is his life and the life of the prophets examples that I should pay attention to?

Listen to Psalm 146 again, the Psalm for today:

"Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish. Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God,"

God wants you to be happy, but that happiness can only be found in Him...not trusting in your own strength, the strength of princes, but putting your hope in God alone. In order for that to happen, there always needs to be a complete despairing of self, that is, a complete repentance of sin and an absolute trust in God as one's only refuge.

Psalm 146 goes on to tell us: **"The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord raises those who are bowed down;"**

In order to bow us down in humbleness, to establish us strong in the Christian faith, He tests us, chastises us out of love for us. When this happens to us, like Job, we may grumble against God like we know more than Him. We may tell God like Job did in chapter 10:

**"Why then have You brought me out of the womb?
Oh, that I had perished and no eye had seen me!
19 I would have been as though I had not been.
I would have been carried from the womb to the grave.**

Why all the hardships between the womb and the grave? Why do I have to endure all the injustices of evil rich men that James tells of in the opening verses of chapter 5 right before he says: **Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord?**

Because through the afflictions and tribulations that we endure, the Lord establishes our hearts!

Listen to the beautiful conclusion Job reaches in chapter 19, after he is chastised by the Lord for presuming to know more for his good than his Creator.

**“Oh, that my words were written!
Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!
24 That they were engraved on a rock
With an iron pen and lead, forever!
25 For I know that my Redeemer lives,
And He shall stand at last on the earth;
26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
That in my flesh I shall see God,
27 Whom I shall see for myself,
And my eyes shall behold, and not another. (Job 19:23-27)**

Job’s eyes were unblinded to see how desperately we need a Redeemer for our sin infected lives that eventually destroy our skin and return us to the dust of our graves.

But God who is merciful and compassionate already had planned to rescue us by sending us His only Son. And His Son, Jesus, God in the flesh, completely trusted the will of His Father to die on the cross in our stead, for our impatience, for our impudence, for our grumbling against God and against one another. Oh yes, we must admit how we lose patience with each other often!

For all these our offenses, Jesus patiently went to the cross for us, opening not His mouth at the injustices and blasphemies committed against Him. Like a sheep to the slaughter He silently endured all our sins, all Job’s sins, all the world’s sins. And that was the Black Friday of Black Fridays which became for us the Good Friday.

For our Redeemer paid the price for entrance into His heavenly kingdom once and for all. And He rose again 3 days later to prove that this most glorious news is true! My Redeemer lives!

And because He lives, like Job, we can say with full assurance, **That in my flesh I shall see God, 27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another.**

Your flesh shall be restored, a completely new and glorified, perfect body, with perfect eyesight to see your loving and merciful God!

What a joy it was to sing “I know that My Redeemer Lives” at my uncle’s funeral last week with all my family. By God’s grace, Uncle Paul lives with his Redeemer. “I am but a stranger here, heaven is my home”, we also sang.

His confirmation verse was “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2:10. Faithfulness by relying on the promises of God’s Word in the face of adversity and tribulation.

Uncle Paul loved horses and competed in the Kentucky Derby. But most of all, I told my family that by God’s grace alone he received the greatest triple crown. For God created him, the crown of His creation, mankind, giving him and each of us special gifts and abilities to use in service to Him. God redeemed Him in his baptism, giving Uncle Paul the crown of life, and God now has brought him into glory – the Triple Crown of God’s love and mercy – created, redeemed and glorified.

And thanks be to God we will see our God and loved ones in the winners circle in heaven around the throne of the Lamb.

God charges us who are still waiting on this side of eternity to be faithful unto death. Yes! God has a good end planned for you. Be patient! Jesus is coming! Be patient when you go through times of testing like Job.

Remember Abraham who was told to patiently wait for a son, even in his old age. Well, Abraham believed and it was counted to him as righteousness. Yet, he unfortunately wanted to hurry God’s plans along by having a son through his maid servant. And God continued to test him and strengthen his faith by having him offer Isaac to Him as a sacrifice.

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.”

12 And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” (Genesis 22:11-12)

There are “now I know moments” in all of our lives when God calls us to trust in Him, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And happy are you, blessed are you as God establishes your faith in Him and gives you greater patience and endurance.

So that with much joy, you desire like the Psalmist said in our Introit in Psalm 71, more time in our old age to tell of His wonderful works of salvation to the next generation!

**“My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness
And Your salvation all the day,
For I do not know their limits.
16 I will go in the strength of the Lord God;
I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.**

**17 O God, You have taught me from my youth;
And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.
18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded,
O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to this generation,
Your power to everyone who is to come.**

Yours only! Salvation is found only in Jesus and that makes the Christian religion the true and most joyful religion as we wait patiently for our Lord’s coming.

Amen

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)