

The Light of Grace

Hope: Zechariah

Welcome To Worship December 6, 2023

First the vine, then the branches, and afterwards the fruit. With our Father as the Vine, we are privileged by our Baptism to be grafted in as His branches. Today, during worship, the Father will be preparing your heart so that fruit will be what you produce as your response of gratitude in the week ahead.

OLD TESTAMENT

1 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

4"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.



EPISTLE Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.



HOLY GOSPEL

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has visited and redeemed his people of and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,

might serve him without fear,

75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most

High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

