GRATEFUL EVEN WHILE WE WAIT

Psalm 70:1– 5 | Sunday, November 8, 2026 | Advent Lutheran Church

The Trouble with Waiting

In the hospital, I often encounter patients anxiously waiting for medical results. The tests have been completed, but the results have not arrived. Every time a physician enters the room, the patient hopes for an answer. And when the physician leaves without news, I can see the disappointment.

I know something about that impatience.

After attending a job interview, I was eagerly waiting for a telephone call from the organization. One day, someone else called and wanted a long conversation. I could barely concentrate! I kept thinking, *What if the organization calls while this telephone line is busy?*

I became impatient with someone who had done nothing wrong.

Waiting had begun to change the way I treated another person.

And sometimes waiting affects more than our relationships. It can also affect our trust in God.

Before we turn to Psalm 70, let us pray aloud together, drawing from King David's thanksgiving in 1 Chronicles 29:10 –13.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors, forever and ever.

Yours are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to you.

In your hands are power and strength, and you give strength to all.

And now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. Strengthen our faith to trust your goodness even while we wait.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Waiting, Trusting, and Living Our Faith

Listen to David's opening words in Psalm 70:

"Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O LORD, make haste to help me!" – Psalm 70:1

David is in danger. He wants God's help, and he wants it now!

We know that kind of prayer. We pray for healing, employment, peace in our families, and answers to difficult situations. And when nothing seems to change, we become discouraged.

But David does not stop praying. He brings his struggles directly to God.

Then, in verse 4, something remarkable happens:

"Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you."

David is still in trouble, yet he makes room for thanksgiving.

He is not giving thanks for his suffering. He is giving thanks because **God remains good even when his circumstances have not changed.**

That is an important difference.

We sometimes measure God's goodness by how quickly our prayers are answered. But our relationship with God is not a transaction. We do not pray, worship, or serve so that God will owe us something in return.

God's love is already ours through Jesus Christ.

Jesus entered our suffering, prayed in anguish, and gave himself for us on the cross. Through his resurrection, we have a living hope that reaches beyond our present circumstances.

God hears our prayers. His answers may come differently from what we expect, but his faithfulness remains.

Listen again to David's final words:

"You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!" – Psalm 70:5

David is still waiting, but he continues to trust.

Now, I invite you to reflect silently:

What are you waiting for in your life today?

How is that waiting affecting your relationship with God and with others?

Is your faith continuing to grow and express itself while you wait?

These questions remind us that waiting is not only about what we hope to receive. It is also about how we live while the answer has not yet come.

Last week, our congregation prepared Thanksgiving baskets for families in our community.

Think about those waiting to receive them. Some may have been wondering since January what Thanksgiving would look like this year. They do not know exactly what will come or when, but they wait with the hope that someone will remember them.

Their waiting reminds us of our own hopes and uncertainties. And it also reminds us that, even as we wait for answers to our prayers, **our faith can continue to bring hope into the lives of others.**

We do not have to wait until our own needs are met before caring for someone else.

Our faith continues to act because Christ has already loved us.

What About This Week?

Bring before God whatever you are waiting for. Pray honestly, as David did. But do not allow what has not yet happened to take away the goodness you can experience and share today.

Remember my impatience with the person who called while I was waiting for news about the job? That person deserved my attention, even though my mind was occupied with something I wanted more.

This week, let us be more conscious of how our waiting affects the people around us.

Do not become so occupied with what you are hoping to receive that you overlook the people God has already placed in your life.

Give your attention to the present. Continue fulfilling your responsibilities with love. Let your hope for tomorrow strengthen, rather than diminish, your faithfulness today.

Psalm 70 begins with a cry for help and ends with a plea for God not to delay. Yet between those cries, David praises God.

That is where faith often lives – between our prayers and the answers we are waiting for.

And in that waiting, Jesus Christ remains our hope.

We can continue trusting. We can continue loving. We can continue giving thanks.

For the God who was faithful yesterday remains faithful today, even while we wait for tomorrow.

Amen.