

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy! If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; so that you may be revered. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.** O Israel, put your hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is unfailing love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all their sins. (Psalm 130:1-8)*

Throughout Lent, as we travel the road toward the Cross, we focus on our faults, taking an honest look within ourselves. We seek to humble ourselves before our Holy, Righteous God. That is no easy task. As we travel through this season, it is easy to be weighed down by the burdens that we each face. It is easy to get discouraged. This is where the psalmist is crying from. He is crying "out of the depths" to the Lord. Maybe that's where you are right now.

Yet at the same time we are also reminded, as we wait out this solemn season of Lent ... there is hope in the end – and that in hope there is forgiveness, love, and redemption. Our hope is found in no other but our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Looking back over the years, we may recall times of severe snow, ice and cold – how it hindered, hampered, confined, endangered, and chilled. There is a common longing for warmth – for the sun to break through the darkness and cold. We long for the breaking forth of such a morning.

But listen to the psalmist – “*My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.*” It is such a strong desire that he repeats the phrase twice! There is a greater cold, a greater darkness, a greater threat than simply the weather outside – it is the sin that lies within. And if we long for the sun to melt away the snow, our soul should long even more for the Son to cleanse us of our sin. My soul longs for the Lord more than for the most glorious of mornings!

Our lives can resemble one long Lenten journey, with plenty of grief, anxiety, pride and pain along the way. Yet along that same way, we discover why the journey is worth the struggle. As we look within ourselves, may we also look up to the One who bridges heaven and earth. When we come to the end of Lent, as we celebrate the resurrection on Easter morning, there is no other who will hear our voice, or redeem us from all our sins, but the One who went to the cross on our behalf – the Sun of Righteousness, the Son of God, our Savior Jesus Christ!

Pastor Chris

*Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ who, as we cry out, is there to hear our voices, and that in hearing our cries, responds with love, forgiveness, and redemption. We thank*

*you for all the blessings of our lives and lift up our highest praises to You as our God. We do all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*