



Devotion for Thursday, April 30, 2020:

**Romans 5:1-7**

**Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.**

- NRSV

I am starting to hear that folks are getting “quarantine fatigue”. Something I can relate to. I am sure many of us are tired of seeing the same faces and being in the same places. It is a sad day when a quick trip to the grocery store is the highlight of the week or when your kids beg to ride to pick up some food, even though you made it clear they can't get out of the car. Strange and surprisingly exhausting times indeed.

It is difficult to imagine that this time will produce anything but a wrecked economy and depression due to isolation. We see only hardship on the news and our fear is stoked by the many commentators and pundits who prophesy doom and gloom. Where do we find hope then?

As usual, I turn to God's word. Paul writes to the church in Rome and tells them to “boast in their suffering”. I would never say that our suffering is great, but I think we as the faithful can boast in it. We can boast that God will see us through it and that we will not only be well, but perhaps have a new appreciation for all that God has given us.

I for one already have a new appreciation for my church family, and for all those people that I now miss. This “suffering” has prompted me not to say, “Lord, save me from your followers” but instead to say, “Lord, thank you for your followers”.

***Gracious God, you persevere through our doubts and fears. You reach out to us in the midst of our hardship and fear, loving us despite our faults. Give us that same perseverance so we might overcome our situation and learn once again that you are faithful. Amen.***

In Christ, Pastor Travis Larsen