



Devotion for Thursday, May 21, 2020:

Psalm 93:3

The floods have lifted up, O Lord,

the floods have lifted up their voice;

the floods lift up their roaring.

- NRSV

I suspect many of you have heard that there is more flooding going on in our region. I was out in Pilot Rock earlier today dropping off some supplies, and saw first hand the damage. Thankfully it is not many people have been displaced from their homes, but certainly the town and some of the local businesses have been hit. Please remember them in your prayers.

The Bible passage above lifts up God's name in glory as the waters rise and lift us up and away. It is remarkable to me that this psalm can use a force that most often thought of as destructive and scary to praise and raise God's name on high. I enjoy the reversal, the idea that God can be likened to a force of destruction and praised in the same breath.

I like the idea because I am reminded that even forces of destruction can be used for God's glory and for the good of all. The adversity we are going through now, while it can be tedious and painful and no doubt the real cost won't be counted for some time, God can use for our good. Perhaps the lessons of patience, the unity this hardship brings, the binding together our communities are going through, or even just learning what is truly important in life and some of the consequences of our troubles.

To be clear, I would never say and don't believe that God has brought these challenges upon us, but I say with confidence that God can use them to bring about good. God stands with us and is encouraging us all. We are loved that we might love others.

Indomitable Lord, You are untamed and undaunted by the challenges we humans throw at you. Your love and patience knows no bounds and like the rising waters of a river in flood, cannot be contained. You see us through all challenges and overwhelm all barriers that seek to keep us from you. Thank you for never giving up on us.

In Christ, Pastor Travis Larsen