

I think one of the reasons we come to church is because we believe there's something to this promise of forgiveness and renewal, of love and peace that can make a difference in our lives today. This morning I want to talk about what this means according to the Psalmist's expression, "**the Lord is my portion.**"

OPENING PRAYER

PSALM 119:53-60

Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your law.

Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning.

I remember your name in the night, O LORD, and keep your law.

This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts.

THE LORD IS MY PORTION;

I promise to keep your words.

I entreat your favor with all my heart;

Be gracious to me according to your promise.

When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies;

I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.

The words, "**the Lord is my portion,**" falls right in the center of psalmist's devotion.

In the Old Testament, the word "**portion**" is used in the same way a nutritionist might say today, "If you have a 'portion' of spinach 3-times a week your health will improve significantly."

In other words, when a person or group of people received a portion of something in the Bible it meant they had received exactly what they needed. For example, the Scripture reads that when the tribes of Israel entered the Promised

Land, they each received a **“portion”** of land for their families. They did not receive equal allotments, but they received what they needed according to God’s wisdom.

When the Psalmist wrote, **“the Lord is my portion,”** he was saying that with God he had everything he needed for this life.

How do get to that place where we can say with absolute confidence, **“the Lord is my portion,”** that he’s everything I need? It sounds kind of mystical, doesn’t it? But for the Psalmist, his relationship with God was as real as the pew you’re sitting in.

Indeed, before and after his claim that “the Lord is my portion,” the Psalmist wrote, **“I keep your law.... I have kept your precepts.... I promise to keep your words.... Be gracious to me according to your promise.... I turn my feet to your testimonies.... I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.”**

All these phrases about the Psalmist’s devotion to God, the words **law, precepts, words, promise, testimonies, and commandments,** are synonyms for God’s Word.

And this is the point: The Psalmist’s relationship to God was in direct relationship to his faith in God’s Word, the Bible. It was the source of everything he needed to understand God.

St. John made this real for the Christian when he wrote in the Book of Revelation that he had a vision of Jesus **“dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God” (Rev 19:13).**

In other words, Jesus, the incarnate Word of God, is the same Word that fed the Psalmist’s spirit, but a Word that has since become manifest among men, the glory of God on earth, the Son of God.

What the Psalmist and the prophets only hoped for, we have received in Christ. What the Psalmist and the prophets gave their lives for, fills our hearts with joy and peace. Jesus is our **“portion”** for he is the Word made flesh, and it is this Word that satisfies all our inner longings.

We first received Jesus, the incarnate Word of God, in the waters of Holy Baptism, for the water was combined with the Word of God that saves us.

We receive Jesus, the incarnate Word of God, in the his supper, the bread and wine interwoven with the promises of God for the forgiveness of sins.

And we receive Jesus, the incarnate Word of God, whenever we believe his Words as we receive them in the Holy Bible.

Jesus said, **Matthew 10:38, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Mt 10:39).**

Brothers and sisters, when we believe these words, we fall down on our knees before God Almighty, repent, and we are forgiven for all our sins. We are new creatures, heirs of God’s heavenly kingdom, sons and daughters of our Father in Heaven. For the Lord has become our **“portion.”**

“The Lord is my portion.” Please say it with me. (**“The Lord is my portion.”**)

Jesus said, **John 6:39-40, “this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”**

When we believe these words, we are saved. We are saved from sin, death, and the devil. And we are saved from the heartache of this world. I care about the terrorism and mass shootings which have risen to epidemic levels in the world. But I am not afraid. For **“perfect love casts out fear.”** This is the Word of God.

“The Lord is my portion.”

I’m concerned about the immigration crisis around the world, and about global warming, and about the 10,000 children who will die today because of malnutrition, but I know in the end the only thing that matters is Jesus’ promise, **“I will raise him up on the last day.”** This is the Word of God.

“The Lord is my portion.”

Jesus said, **“I am the Light of the World” (Jn 8:12)**. When we believe these words, Jesus leads us through the darkness of this world, comforting our hearts, awakening our spirits, casting away troubles. This is the Word of God.

“The Lord is my portion.”

Jesus said, **Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

When we believe these words, we fall into the arms of Jesus and he relieves the pain we harbor in our hearts. All of grief and our sorrows he bears for us, and he gives us peace of mind. This is the Word of God.

“The Lord is my portion.”

Jesus said, **John 7:37-39 "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive...."**

When we believe these words, God performs a miracle in our lives: He brings forth fruit from our hearts, and we make a difference. We have a little more love for our families, a little more compassion for our neighbors, and a little more grace for our co-workers, and God is glorified. This is the Word of God.

“The Lord is my portion.”

Friends in Christ, this week may we hold fast to the Word of God, for it is all we need between now and forever.

Friends in Christ, this week may God’s Word blossom richly in our lives, filling us with peace of mind, confidence, and joy in our walk with him and one another.

And this week may you have the opportunity to share this Good News with another person who really needs to hear it, in the name of Jesus. Amen.