

# The Right Hand

## A Psalm of Gratitude for Grace

Last week, I indicated that I would bring Grace Lutheran Church a psalm that I felt speaks directly to us, in our present situation. That psalm is Psalm 16, and it can be found in the front of your pew Hymnal. It is a short psalm (only 11 verses), and you will get the best from this column if you read it first. Read Psalm 16 now:

Plainly, the psalmist (David) is expressing great gratitude for his inclusion (by choice) in God's Kingdom. His tremendous depth, specificity, and sincerity of expression is inspiring, and it brings tears to my eyes when I consider the similarity of our situations.... David went through some "rough times," and we are, too.

I would like you to read this psalm again (perhaps aloud, at home),, but this time change all singular references to plural ("I" to "we," "my" to "our," etc.). Make it our psalm. Suddenly, this paean becomes a corporate expression of gratitude to the Lord, and we reinforce our solidarity with our congregation! And, in doing this, we will feel a new sense of connection to the Lord!! What can be better than that?

It may interest you to know that I often pray corporate prayers in my daily devotions, and I would urge others to do so, as well. There is something very satisfying about praying for others, beyond oneself, and it strengthens our sense of connection to GLC and to God's Kingdom. I do it out of love....

One of the duties of a Church Elder is to assist the Pastor in praying for the congregation. A pastor is always praying for the congregation, and he can use as much help as he can get. *"Many 'hands' make the work easier!"*

*"May God keep us from complacency, and may we press on to know Him more deeply and obey Him more fully."* More next week! In Deo speramus.

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Stewardship Chair

P.S. Do you see the double meaning of today's column's heading?....