

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 31:9-16 & 19-20 & Revelation 21:1-7. What strikes you as you read? What questions come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. Who is the "bride, the wife of the Lamb" (Rev 21:2)? What does this spiritual union symbolize about the relationship between Christ & His people?
3. What is the significance of God now dwelling among his people? How is this "presence" different from how you experience Christ indwelling you now by the Holy Spirit?
4. What is the significance of the words, "new heaven & new earth"? What does it mean the "first heaven & first earth had passed away"?
5. What do you think life will be like in the new heaven & new earth without death, mourning, crying, or pain? What do you believe will happen to our memories of events from our lives that would invoke those responses? What comfort does verse four give to you in your daily life?
6. Read all of Psalm 31 looking for the use of the word "hand." What do you see there? What can we commit to God's hand? What *is* in His hand? From whose hand will he deliver us? What does that assurance help you to understand & perhaps communicate to others?
7. In this hardship, David is tempted to look at his circumstances & despair. What truths does he confess to refocus him in these times? What are you tempted to turn to when your circumstances feel overwhelming?
8. What does the phrase "*my times are in your hands*" suggest to you? What does unequivocal trust in God, no matter what look like? Where in your life do you need to grow in that "no matter what" trust?
9. Read Psalm 31:24. Where in your life do you need to "be strong & courageous"? Our contentment in life is based on our growing faith. How will this Psalm help grow your responding trust & confidence in God?
10. What might God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, or pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

Remember:

*At the cross, Christ's strength flows through our weakness
& by him we are carried into the promise of the day
when all pain is overwhelmed in joy & life eternal.*

Continue praying through the week:

***Father prepare me for whatever you require today
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.
In Jesus' Name...Amen.***

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Living Water Fellowship

17th Sunday after Pentecost – 5th October 2025

COME TO JESUS

GATHERING MUSIC: VIDEO – SING (Stiff & Zimmer)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

OPENING SONG: VIDEO – GOOD & GRACIOUS KING (CityAlight)

BIBLE READING: Psalm 31:9-16 & 19-20

- ⁹ Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in distress.
Tears blur my eyes. My body and soul are withering away.
- ¹⁰ I am dying from grief; my years are shortened by sadness.
Sin has drained my strength; I am wasting away from within.
- ¹¹ I am scorned by all my enemies and despised by my neighbours —
even my friends are afraid to come near me.
When they see me on the street, they run the other way.
- ¹² I am ignored as if I were dead, as if I were a broken pot.
- ¹³ I have heard the many rumours about me, and I am surrounded by terror.
My enemies conspire against me, plotting to take my life.
- ¹⁴ But I am trusting you, O Lord, saying, "You are my God!"
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hands. Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly.
- ¹⁶ Let your favour shine on your servant. In your unfailing love, rescue me.
- ¹⁹ How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.
You lavish it on those who come to you for protection,
blessing them before the watching world.
- ²⁰ You hide them in the shelter of your presence,
safe from those who conspire against them.
You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

FAITH CHAT:

1. When tragedy strikes in our world, what is your first reaction?
Are you ever tempted to assign "blame"? To whom?
2. When tragedy strikes you or those you love, what is your first reaction?
Are you ever tempted to assign "blame"? To whom?

BIBLE READING: Revelation 21:1-7

¹ Then I saw a new heaven & a new earth, for the old heaven & the old earth had disappeared. The sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, & they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, & there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." ⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" Then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy & true." ⁶ He also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha & the Omega—the Beginning & the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings. I will be their God, & they will be my children.

THE MESSAGE: *SINCE YOU ASKED... WHY DOES GOD ALLOW PAIN & SUFFERING?*

OFFERING SONG: VIDEO – WHAT LOVE MY GOD (CityAlight)

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Preparation:

Since we have been raised with Christ Jesus, let us set our minds on heavenly things, not on the things that are on earth. Let's pray together...

Gracious God, in our wanderings & selfish desiring we often forsake fellowship with our families, our friends, & our neighbors; we neglect our communion with you, choosing worldly pleasures over worship, truth, justice, & righteousness. In a world of plenty, we hoard our earthly blessings while others lack. Free us from such bondage, that we may truly reveal the presence of Christ in our lives. Amen.

Christ gave to the church the bread of heaven, his flesh & blood, for our forgiveness, life & salvation. Paul records that gracious gift with these words:

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people?

You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love.

Once again you will have compassion on us.

You trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

(Micah 7:18-19)

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: BETTER BY FAR (TREVOR HODGE)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God,

The Cross of Christ is your eternal hope!

-- Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: VIDEO – HIS MERCY IS MORE (Boswell & Papa)

SHOW HIS LOVE