



April 7, 2024

Church Rising

Part One: Introduction and a Call to Prayer

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Easter tide: Continuing the Easter Celebration

Jesus' particular body and the particularity of Highland

Death and resurrection, His story and ours

In what ways does Highland need resurrection in this post-Covid season?

What health is not: beware of stereotypes (size, makeup, popularity)

What health is: "maximized congruence": everybody in playing their part, "hitting on all cylinders"

The church's engine: Up, In, and Out!

This series is meant to be a simple tune-up: assessment, recommendations

Assessment 1: UP: press into corporate prayer

UP: A Call to Prayer: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Paul's introductions: Rom 1:10; 1 Cor 1:4; Eph 1:16; Phil 1:4; Col 1:3; 1 Thess 1:2; 2 Tim 1:3; Phlm 1:4

His request for prayer from the churches: Rom 15:30; 2 Cor 1:11; Phil 1:19; 1 Tim 2:1; 2 Thess 3:1; Phlm 1:22

His exhortation to the work of prayer: Rom 12:12; Eph 6:18; Phil 4:6; Col 4:2; 1 Thess 5:17; (also James 5:16)

Notice the "reflexive" dynamic of prayer: prayer for Paul's protection from evil yields the same: vs. 2-3

Prayer is communion with God and one another where the splash of the request splashes the requester

In prayer we are directed to the love of God and to persevering strength of Christ: vs. 5

Highland at Prayer

Sunday worship: meeting with God versus meeting about God

Continuing the 12:00 Noon spiritual practice

Midweek Morning Prayer: Thursdays 7:30AM in the Chapel

Praying for one another: Weekly prayer requests

Singing Psalm 51

Dm -C Am7-Dm BbMaj7-C Am7-Dm

- 1 Have mercy on **me**, O God,
according to your **steadfast** love;
according to your a-**bundant** mercy
blot out **my** transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly **from** my iniquity,
and cleanse me **from** my sin!
- 3 For I know **my** transgressions,
and my sin is **ever** before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, **have** I sinned
and done what is evil **in** your sight,
so that you may be justified **in** your words
and blameless **in** your judgment.
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth **in** iniquity,
and in sin did my **mother** conceive me.
- 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the **inward** being,
and you teach me wisdom in the **secret** heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I **shall** be clean;
wash me, and I shall be **whiter** than snow.
- 8 Let me hear **joy** and gladness;
let the bones that you have **broken** rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face **from** my sins,
and blot out **all** my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean **heart**, O God,
and renew a right **spirit** within me.
- 11 Cast me not away **from** your presence,
and take not your Holy **Spirit** from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of **your** salvation,
and uphold me with a **willing** spirit.