

When Peace Like River Attendeth

By Horatio G. Spafford (1873)

When peace, like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
It is well with my soul.
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed His own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul.
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin – O, the bliss of this glorious thought,
My sin – not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more, praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well with my soul.
It is well, it is well with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul.
It is well, it is well with my soul.

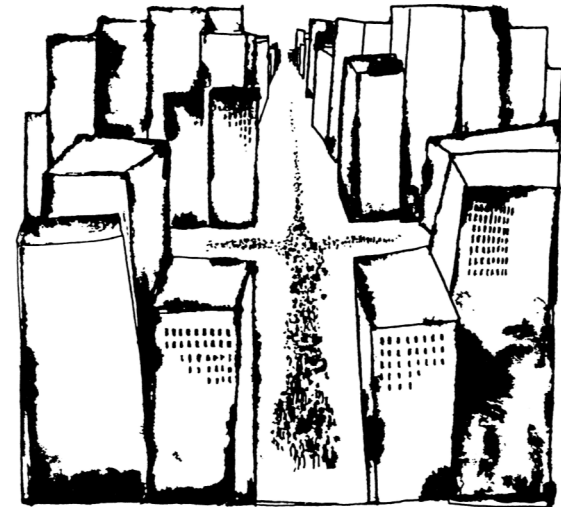


We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Old Orchard Church

August 4, 2013 — 10:15-11:50 a.m.



*"Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
He will not quarrel or cry out;
no one will hear his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he leads justice to victory.*

In his name the nations will put their hope."

—Isaiah 42 quoted in Matthew 12:18-21

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Justice and Peace

The Lord reigns on high,
The Lord is worthy to be praised;
Righteousness and justice
Are the foundation of his throne;
Fire goes before him
And consumes his foes on every side.

When the Son took flesh on our behalf
He came to proclaim justice to the nations,
And as the Prince of Peace to heal a war-torn world.
Exalted above us, he invites us near;
A bruised soul he will not break,
And a wick barely lit he will not snuff out
Till he leads justice to victory.
In his name
All the nations of the earth will put their hope.

Praise be to the Lord for the peace he brings!
Praise be to the Lord for the justice he will secure!
In both, his goodness to the world is revealed.



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5, 17-19, 22

New Testament Lesson: Revelation 6

Christianity in Ephesus, Christianity in St. Louis Series

—Sermon—

“Becoming the ‘We’ in ‘We/They’:
The Healing Goodness of Telling the Truth”
Ephesians 4:20-25

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

Jesus and Justice

Our hymnals are becoming more reflective of the heart of God! In the older hymnals one looks in vain in the index for the heading, "Justice." Now the Christian Reformed Church *Psalter Hymnal* has such a heading. That's progress: with all the emphasis in Scripture on God as a God of justice and on Christ as the One who secures justice for the world, we need more songs in which God is praised for his justice and the people of God are exhorted to be just, after the image of Christ. Maybe our *Trinity Hymnal* will soon follow.

Justice on earth has to do with establishing and maintaining righteous laws that protect people and their property. Where there is justice people are free **for** certain things and free **from** certain things. The things the Old Testament prophets rail against include the following: not paying workers a decent wage; taking social and financial advantage of those with little political or social power: widows, orphans, slaves, foreigners; husbands abandoning their wives and children; merchants cheating customers in the marketplace; and farmers depriving the poor of their rights under the gleaning laws of Deuteronomy 24.

When Christ came, it is true, he focused his attacks more on the spiritual oppression of the religious "powers that be" than on the social. And yet the passage on our bulletin cover this morning so wonderfully sets forth Jesus as the Messiah who will **"proclaim justice to the nations"** and who will **"lead justice to victory."** God cares when people are not just in their dealings with each other. Nowhere is this clearer than in the New Testament epistle of James, when James warns those who misuse their authority over their employees:

Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. (James 5:4)

The Lord's Day in August 2013, is a fitting time in America to be celebrating Jesus Christ as the Lord of justice. But the place to begin is with ourselves: am I behaving justly toward my parents—or do I lie to them and cheat on the work they've asked me to do around the house when they're not looking? Do I treat my children with justice—or do I break my word to them and scream at them, or give them punishments out of proportion to their disobedience? Am I dealing justly with my employees—or do I try to pay them as little as possible and fudge on the benefits, or mislead them or neglect their safety? Am I seeking "inordinate profits" as Q. 130 of the Larger Catechism puts it? And if I work for others, am I treating my employers fairly—or do I steal time from them, slander them, do less than excellent work for them?

Do I even want to know or wrestle with the hard questions about what justice is in social relationships on this side of the cross?

The time will come when Christ will lead justice to victory everywhere in the world. And Christians, now, are supposed to be the vanguard of that Coming Justice. We need to work at practicing justice in every relationship. But we also need songs to celebrate it—as an attribute of God, as our calling, and as the world's hope because of Christ.

—Ron Lutjens

