

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Ministers: Every Member

Church Office: 244-0143

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Thanks be to God through Christ

ROMANS 7 : 15 . 24 . 25

July 06, 2008

Proclaiming GRACE

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Est. January 3, 1956

We gather this day in celebration of America's Independence to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens." In the Christian community gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

+ GATHERING ... HYMN MELODY: ST. GERTRUDE
(Responses from Psalm 106)

LBW # 509

Serve the Lord with gladness; through his courts with joy;
In his holy service hearts and hands employ.
Come, O favored nation, to his courts with praise;
Filled with adoration, thank him all your days.
Serve the Lord with gladness; through his courts with joy;
In his holy service hearts and hands employ.

L *Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.*

C **His steadfast love endures forever.**

L *Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise?*

C **Happy are those who observe justice, who do right at all times.**

L *Save us, O Lord, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.*

Serve the Lord with gladness; call upon his name;
As God's faithful people, spread abroad his fame.
Tell the wondrous story: God has shown his care
Year by year among us--blessing ev'rywhere!
Serve the Lord with gladness; through his courts with joy;
In his holy service hearts and hands employ.

L *The Lord has saved us for his name's sake, so that he might make known his mighty power.*

C **He saved our ancestors from the hand of the foe, and delivered them from their enemies.**

L *He regarded their distress and heard their cry.*

C **He showed compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love.**

L *Save us, O Lord, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.*

Serve the Lord with gladness; glory in the love
By which Jesus calls us to our home above.
Grateful, we remember those who've served before,
Till in heav'n we join them, serving evermore.
Serve the Lord with gladness; throng his courts with joy;
In his holy service hearts and hands employ.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

L You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

C Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A PSALMODY ... MELODY: KREMSER
(from Psalm 33)

LBW # 241

Remember, O nation, your God ever-reigning,
In mercy ordaining rich blessings for all.
With justice excelling, in liberty dwelling,
Come, serve the Lord with gladness; give heed to his call.

L *The words of the Lord are true, and all his works are dependable.*

C The Lord loves what is righteous and just; his constant love fills the earth.

L *When he spoke, the world was created; at his command everything appeared.*

C Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord; happy are the people he has chosen for his own!

L *The Lord watches over those who obey him, those who trust his constant love.*

C He protects them from death and starvation.

L *May your constant love be with us, Lord, as we put our hope in*

you.

God's constant compassion forget not, O people,
But from ev'ry steeple proclaim liberty.
Remember, O nation, the God of salvation,
Our merciful Redeemer, whose Word sets us free.

A READING FROM Romans 7:

Life enslaved under sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be bad. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L The Word of the Lord C **Thanks be to God.**

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ... NATIONAL ANTHEM

LBW # 566

Let alleluias rise;
To God above the skies anthems be raised.
Grateful for ev'rything, come, favored nation, sing
High hymns to God, our King: The Lord be praised!

+ THE HOLY GOSPEL is announced
P The Gospel according to **St. Matthew 11:**
C Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd, saying:] "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn."

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon';
¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.
²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

+ GOSPEL RESPONSE ... NATIONAL ANTHEM

To Christ, our Savior true,
Unending hymns are due: his grace proclaim!
All who on earth do dwell, let gladsome anthems swell;
The love of Jesus tell: Praise to his name!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERVE WITH GLADNESS! ... MELODY: ODE TO JOY

LBW # 551

Serve with gladness, all you peoples; in the Lord your God rejoice!
Ring your praise from highest steeples; cry it with exultant voice!
Serve with gladness, favored nation! Tell the praises all about
Of the Rock of our salvation: lo, the very stones must shout!

Serve with gladness, you who sorrow, who with tears go forth to sow:
God's great love awaits the morrow, shouts of joy to conquer woe.
Serve with gladness! By God's caring, all that torments now or grieves
Shall depart. See reapers bearing home with joy their bounteous sheaves.

Serve with gladness, for your Maker opens wide his hands to bless.
Come, then, as a glad partaker of your Savior's righteousness!
Oh, be joyful in the Spirit for the hope God's Word provides:
Life eternal we inherit, gracious gift that e'er abides!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

“Daniel's Vision of the End Times or
Expect the Best Through the Worst of Times” Part 9
A series of messages on the Book of Daniel

Daniel 7 **1** In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. **3** Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

+ WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

P/ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**original and preferred text means throughout the world*

+ PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Response:

P Hear us, O God;

C your mercy is great.

OFFERING IS GATHERED

+ OFFERING PRAYER

P God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.

C Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

+ SANCTUS

Tune: Old Hundreth

LBW # 565

Hosanna to the living Lord! Hosanna to the incarnate Word!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King, Let earth, let heav'n hosanna sing!

“Hosanna, Lord!” your angels cry. “Hosanna, Lord!” your saints reply.
Above, beneath us, and around, The dead and living swell the sound.

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Be honor, praise, and glory giv'n By all on earth and all in heav'n.

+ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

+ LORD'S PRAYER

+ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All good gifts come from God.
Come with gratitude to this table of bounty.

DISTRIBUTION

What is this Bread? What is this Wine? Our beliefs about Holy Communion ...At Messiah Lutheran Church, the Holy Supper of our Lord is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that, as Jesus says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His Word “This is my” body and blood to eat and to drink. Through the Holy Spirit we receive these “means of grace” as the living Christ who is really present under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that we may show forth His death until He comes. Please extend hand out to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or from individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Pastor follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup in the rack on the communion rail. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing “that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ.”

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Join in singing the following selections from various resources:

WOV # 651

Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining;

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us;
Shine on me, Shine on me.

Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness;
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness;
Shine on me, Shine on me.

Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

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MELODY: SINE NOMINE

LBW # 174

In God we trust, Lord of eternity,
By whose strong Word creation came to be,
Lord of all nations, clothed in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

In God we trust, the Father's own true Son,
By whose strong death redemption has been won,
And by whose rising new life is begun.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

In God we trust, the Holy Spirit dear,
Whose inspiration shines the Gospel clear
That all the world the saving Word may hear.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P O God, our provider, you nourish us with holy food and drink, and you open our hearts to the needs of others.

C Refresh us with your Spirit, that our words and deeds may proclaim your creative and life-giving Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ THE BLESSING

+ SENDING ... A NATIONAL HYMN

LBW # 569

God bless our native land; Firm may it ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our country save By thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies,
On whom we wait.

Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

+ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live the Gospel!

C Thanks be to God.



MESSIAH MESSENGER

Messiah Lutheran Church, 500 Baytree Road, Valdosta, GA.
Announcements and news for the week of July 06 – July 13, 2008
EVENTS THIS WEEK

TODAY	Sunday Classes on Summer Break 8 th Sunday after Pentecost	10:30	AM
THURSDAY	Thursday Crafts & Lifelifter Baytree AA Group	9:00 7:30	AM PM
SATURDAY	Baytree AA Group	7:30	PM
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes on Summer Break 9 th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Baptism of Ella Stettler	10:30	AM

WE ARE DEVOTED TO OFFERING ... "God's Love, Our Response"

2008 Budget Goal	\$ 134,716.00
Goal per week	\$ 2,591.00
Goal to Date	\$ 67,366.00
Offerings for 2008 Budget – as of 06/22	\$ 71,157.00
Offering last Sunday for 2008 Budget 06/29	Not Available
(the weekly report will be updated when financial secretary returns from vacation)	

Designated Offerings:
 Building Fund

\$ 0.00

"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that ... having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Cor. 9: 8)

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are a gift and a warm reminder of God's love to bloom where you are planted from Helen & Jake Whitten celebrating 45 years of marriage.

Thanks for the gift of flowers to enhance our worship, and to glorify the Lord our God and Savior. To order flowers, please use the registry located on the stand in the hallway toward the fellowship hall.

MEMORIAL BRICKS Here's a special way to remember your loved ones as well as help the services of Hospice of South Georgia Medical Center. For more information, consult with Kay Vincent or Pr. Richard who are advisory board members.

Grace & Peace from Pr. Richard

A card from the Jansen family reads: "Thanking God for the blessing of wonderful people like you" ... "I wish I could thank all of you personally for your prayers and support through Dan's illness, they meant so much to us. May God bless all of you," Dan, Janie & Family. (Dan's brain tumor was benign and he did not suffer stroke from a clot after surgery, thanks be to God, the Healer of our every ill.) + + + A name added to the Armed Forces List: Cory Christians half-way through duty in Korea. Cory's wife, Joline and son, Chandler, have moved to Valdosta recently from the base at Rapid City, South Dakota. We are glad you are here! + + + On Tuesday, July 15, there will be a primary election held in Georgia. Our fellowship hall is an election polling place and by State Law access must be restricted from about noon on Monday, July 14, until noon Wednesday, July 16. We ask all those who use our facility to observe this restriction.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, South Central Georgia Chapter meets on Sunday, July 20, 5 PM at Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall, Tifton, GA. Sandy Adams or Pr. Richard can share information with you on how to get involved in Care in Community Activities supported by Thrivent Chapter members who have raised thousands of dollars to benefit service organizations and hurting people in our area.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and its members are always there to help in times of great need. Unfortunately, we are experiencing one of those times right now as the recent floods in the Midwest has impacted many Lutherans and their neighbors.

Thrivent Financial is initiating a **NATIONAL CHAPTER RESPONSE** effort – a \$250,000 commitment. Through this response effort, our chapter members challenge the Church to raise funds that will go to help those in need. For every \$2 received nationally, Thrivent Financial will provide an additional \$1, up to a total of \$250,000. This effort has the potential to raise at least \$750,000 to support recovery efforts. Contributions for this effort will be accepted through Oct. 1, 2008.

All funds received will be distributed among two disaster relief organizations: Lutheran Disaster Response (LCMS & ELCA) and WELS Committee on Relief.

Thrivent Members at Messiah will place a “FLOOD RELIEF BOX” in the Welcoming Entrance area to receive donations through the last Sunday of August. Thanks for your support.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO PRAYER Acts 2: 42

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS: Ray Bryant(7/7); Susan Keller (7/8); Angie Gannon (7/11) Bryce France (7/12). Missed *on this list? Please leave a note in the church office with name and birth date.*

ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES deployed: Jeff Brown.; Cory Christians (Korea) At US bases: Andrew Vickers (Army Texas), Francis Wasikowski (Army Texas).

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING PATIENTS/SHUT-INS
Rusty Hatcher at Heritage House Nursing Home (admitted to SGMC in critical condition)

Otto Peterson, Advent Village, FL. Nursing Home
Mike Lagioia, Heritage House Nursing Home

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

LIST OF MEMBERS
Steve Keller, chronic kidney stones
Bill Boles, tests positive for Parkinson’s
Camden Jansen, adenoids and tubes in ear on July 11
Dan Jansen, recovering from surgery
Nancy Stewart, cataract surgery on July 9th.

LIST OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Name	Concern/joy	Requested by	Relationship
Larry Ballowe	Lou Gehrig’s disease	Rae Hubbard	friend’s brother
Steve Robkin	brain tumor	Teri Williams	Rob’s step-dad
June Orrison	cancer	Gloria Cook	cousin
Nancy Pieper	cancer	Lee & Sunny Schilly	friend
Belinda Judy	brain tumor	Dorothy Hauge	friend
Bill Horne	cancer	Don Sullins	friend
Pr. Duane Hoyer	brain tumor	Warren Gee	friend

Lil Lawrence	hospice care	Vincent family	sister
Steve Delk	paralysis due to accident	Bo Miller	nephew
Dirk Alexander	cancer	Jan Bristow	friend in Ill.
Jim Ramsey	surgery to remove esophagus	Don Sullins	niece's father-in-law
Kaylie Ellis (age4)	leukemia	Ellen Mitchell	friend
Gary Pasquinzo	chemo treatments	Bob Burns	uncle Mina Ark
Lorna	declining health	Linda Klement	mother in MN
Virginia Anderson	Alzheimer's	Betty Zipperer	sister
Marilyn McGuyrt	chemo resumed	Karin Boles	friend
Millie Kram	pancreatic cancer	Nancy Stewart	friend
Mary Bennett	kidney removed	Susan Keller	friend
Roy McDanielle	lung disease	Duane Hauge	friend
Ricky Harrell	needs kidney transplant	Erin Jansen	uncle
Elizabeth Rabon	cancer	Erin Jansen	grandmother
Amber O'Quinn	brain tumor	Pr Richard	VSU student
Jori Hall	heart transplant list	Friends	LHS student
Linda Brightwell	cancer	Tina Wright	friend/co-worker
Landon Adkins (age 5)	serious allergic reactions	Janie Jansen	friend
Ruth Eikelberg	tests	Nancy Stewart	mother
Lindsey Klement	tests for stomach pain	Linda Klement	daughter-
in-law			

WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano
 Reader & Communion Assistants
 Acolyte
 Presenter, Children's message
 Greeters
 Nursery
 Ushers

Altar preparation/Chancel care
 Sound tech
 Custodians
 Altar linen
 Flower service
 Flower beds
 Grass cutting
 Floor Maintenance Smith's Janitorials

Kay Vincent
 Jeff & Michelle Moxley
 Zach Moxley
 Nancy Sult, Linda Welch
 Betty Zipperer & Fran Sparks
 Cyndy Pieplow
 Dick Rockey, Bill & Karin Boles
 Lee Keller, Jeff Willis
 Courtney Sheeley
 Volunteer
 Bob & Valerie Behnke
 Fran Sparks, Jan Sparks
 Helen Whitten
 Whitten family
 Fred Daniels 245-0483
 Laverne Smith 229 387-6060

Church Council.....
 Kay Vincent, president
 Jan Sparks, financial secretary
 Jeff Moxley, stewardship
 Bo Miller, worship
 John Mitchell, property

Sandy Adams, v- pres/secretary
 Kathy Lane, treasurer
 Cindy Mitchell, youth
 Bob Burns, evangelism
 Dana Black, Christian Ed.

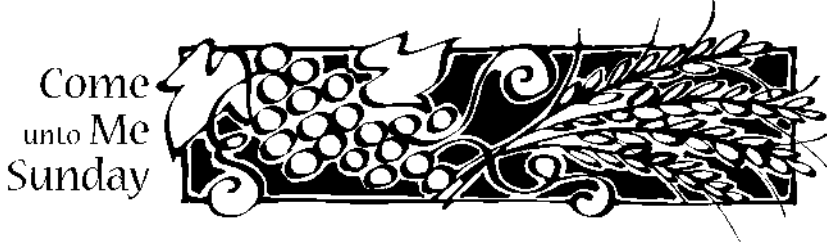
WE ARE DEVOTED TO SERVICE

July 13

July 20

July 27

Reader:	<i>E Sheeley</i>	<i>K Lane</i>	<i>W Geo</i>
Com Assist:	<i>K Sheeley</i>	<i>L Sparks</i>	<i>B Geo</i>
Acolyte:	<i>B Nelson</i>	<i>R Spencer</i>	<i>A Sweeney</i>
Chancel:	<i>C Sheeley</i>	<i>C Pieplew</i>	<i>N Boyd</i>
Nursery:	<i>T Wright</i>	<i>V Behnke</i>	<i>J Jansen</i>
Greeters:	<i>B Miller</i>	<i>L Sparks</i>	<i>E Mitchell</i>
	<i>C Miller</i>	<i>P Simpson</i>	<i>C Pieplew</i>
Ushers:	<i>V Suntuors</i>	<i>E Sheeley</i>	<i>G Vincent</i>
		<i>L Sheeley</i>	<i>L Vincent</i>
		<i>B Miller</i>	<i>J Willis</i>
		<i>J Maxwell</i>	<i>L Keller</i>



Yoked with God *A Reflection based on today's Gospel Reading from St. Matthew 11.*

Six horses harnessed together in a horizontal row marched in a syncopated rhythm across the open field. Behind them, on the simple, wide plow stood a farmer, a boy really, with three sets of reins in each hand. Guided by the wisdom and inner strength of their young master, the horses plowed sure and straight furrows. No whip, no harsh yelling—just familiar, regular, and soothing but authoritative words gave them their yoked power and made the burden of the plow light.

The gospel reading today issues an invitation to us to be yoked with God. God will take on our hurts and our cares making them bearable for us, and will teach us with gentleness; we will take on God's love and find peace. God will teach us with the same tenderness that a parent has for a beloved child.

Again and again in the psalms we are told that we don't have to doubt for a nanosecond that God will remember and keep promises made—God is always faithful. And it's a good thing because our own nature is sinful. How often do we try, and try, and then try again, only to fall back into our sinful ways? Oh, how blessed we are to have our gentle teacher to guide us.

God does not promise us exemption from the cares and worries of this world. We do have days of pain, of distrust, of disbelief in some of the things we see and hear, but during those times we can have the deep, and true, and absolute knowledge that our God is yoked to us and will carry us through.

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