

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran
Church
Sermon by Pastor
Anthony E. Schutz
May 8, 2016
Psalm 42 Eisenach Series
7th Sunday of Easter.**



Evangelical Heritage Version.

As a doe pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and appear before God? My tears have been food for me day and night, while people are saying to me all day, “Where is your God?” I am overwhelmed by my emotions whenever I remember these things: how I used to arrive with the crowd, as I led the procession to the house of God, with shouts of thanksgiving, with the crowd celebrating the festival. Why are you depressed, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I will again praise him for salvation from his presence. My God, my soul is depressed within me. Therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, from the heights of Hermon – from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your rapids. All your breakers and your waves have swept over me. By day the LORD commands his mercy, and at night his song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go around mourning because of oppression by the enemy?” It is like breaking my bones, when my foes taunt me. All day they are saying to me, “Where is your God?” Why are you depressed, O my soul? And why so disturbed within me?

Hope in God for I will again praise him for my salvation from the face of God.

People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

Thirsty? Thirsty? From time to time little Henry Elwood comes over to Grandma’s house. Sometimes when Henry Elwood is at Grandma’s house he gets hungry – and he lets you know he’s hungry by crying. At first it’s a little noise – a little sadness. And in just a few moments it’s crying – really sad. And if he doesn’t get milk really soon now – he can cry so hard little tiny tears can literally pop out. Grandma – quick to anticipate is very quick with the bottle. And then you watch Hank the tank – really drink – I mean inhale that milk! Pause for a pretty deep burp – or two – and it’s back to drinking, drinking, drinking! And then when he’s full – he might even fall fast asleep in your arms. Thirsty? God’s Word this morning-is about spiritual thirst. Today – the 7th Sunday of Easter – because even one or two or three or four Sundays of Easter just aren’t enough – the 7th Sunday of Easter – the first Sunday after Ascension God’s Word reminds us:

The Gospel Quenches Deepest Thirst

I. Why are we depressed?

II. Hope in God!

The Psalm we are concentrating on today was written by inspiration of the Holy Spirit by the sons of a man named Korah. What does that mean to you? Do you remember when Moses was leading the children of Israel from sore bondage and slavery in Egypt to the promised land? Sure you do. During the time they were in the wilderness Korah, Dathan and Abiram rebelled against the LORD. God’s Word says: Numbers chapter 16 Korah

son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites – Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth – became **insolent**² and rose up against Moses. With them were **250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders** who had been appointed members of the council.³ They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD’s assembly?”⁴ When Moses heard this, he fell facedown.⁵ Then he said to Korah and all his followers: “In the morning the LORD will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him.⁶ You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers⁷ and tomorrow put burning coals and incense in them before the LORD. The man the LORD chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!” ...But they said, “We will not come!¹³ Isn’t it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness? And now you also want to lord it over us!¹⁴ Moreover, you haven’t brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. ...²³ Then the LORD said to Moses,²⁴ “Say to the assembly, ‘Move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.’”²⁵ Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.²⁶ He warned the assembly, “Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins.”²⁷ So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrances to their tents.²⁸ Then Moses said, “This is how you will know that

the LORD has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea: ²⁹ If these men die a natural death and suffer the fate of all mankind, then the LORD has not sent me. ³⁰ But if the LORD brings about something totally new, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them, with everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the realm of the dead, then you will know that these men have treated the LORD with contempt.” ³¹ As soon as he finished saying all this, **the ground under them split apart** ³² **and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions.** ³³ They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community. ³⁴ At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, “The earth is going to swallow us too!” ³⁵ And **fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men** who were offering the incense.

It was the descendants of Korah – who met such a terrible end – that were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write Psalm 42. **As a doe pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.** In the early autumn – when we lived literally in the middle of the Kettle Moraine State Forest – I used to go hunting – which is different from shooting – in the forest by the Elmer Schmidt family farm. When I was looking for deer I would usually see wood ducks and mallards and Canada – not Canadian – they don’t have citizenship – Canada geese. And when I was looking for ducks and geese I would usually see deer. I will never forget one day I was sitting in the tall weeds on the edge of the woods – just about the time the autumn sun was going down – in camo – not moving – when deer came out of the woods – into the pasture. A small yearling came out into the pasture – and with stiff legs just

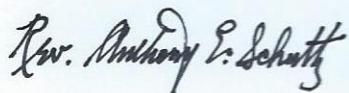
bounced and bounced and bounced like a calf out of the barn for the first time – like a little lamb – bounce, bounce, bounce – so happy to be alive. Then this little deer would stop and put his head down low – then run as fast as he could – only to crash into the side of the mighty buck – and then run away as fast as he could – only to do it again and again. Like a doe – thirsty for a drink – drinks from the cool sweet waters of the stream – so we thirst for our Heavenly Father – thirsts for our Savior and His saving Word! It's true! Isaiah wrote, **⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" ⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.** Isaiah 52

When can I go and appear before God? My tears have been food for me day and night, while people are saying to me all day, "Where is your God?" Where is your God? We stopped at Brookfield Square the other day – at Barnes and Noble Booksellers and I picked up a paperback copy of a book called: Undeniable...Evolution of the Science of Creation. While I didn't want to give \$16.99 to Bill Nye the "Science guy" – I think it's important when people attack – say – the Genesis account of Creation to try and understand where they are coming from – so that you can appreciate what atheists and agnostics "believe" and to be able to defend the truth of Scripture! What bothered Bill Nye – apparently even when he was very young – were bumble

bees – yes, the humble little bumble bee. It is pretty much common knowledge that your average bumble bee – at least according to your basic so called “laws of aerodynamics” is alas too big – to fly. Oh, how frustrating it is! So – go to college and get advanced degrees in all sorts of science and biology and engineering and aerodynamics – and still no way to explain the undeniable fact that bumble bees do in fact with their inferior – too small wings – do get off the ground! How can this be? (*pardon the pun!*) It’s because Jesus wants them to fly – the Lord Jesus lifts them up and helps them land. It’s really very simple. They fly because God made them to fly! Where is our God? He is right beside me – all the time. He never leaves me. He is always with me. He always forgives me. He will never fail me!

Why are you depressed, O my soul? And why so disturbed within me? Hope in God for I will again praise him for my salvation from the face of God. It’s easy to be depressed – to be disturbed deep inside. Just look around – at all the painful damage that sin does in our world – in our family – in my ♥ and in my life! Hope in God! That is an attitude that can only come from the Holy Spirit through the gospel in the means of grace – the Gospel in Scripture and the sacraments – baptism and Lord’s Supper! Examples multiply. Joshua Wege – the WELS Wounded Warrior who plays professional baseball. Consider the courage of a man like Jim Abbot – who wrote an autobiography Imperfect, An Improbable Life. Jim Abbot had only one hand. How could he possibly be a professional baseball player? Hold his glove under his arm – pitch the ball and very quickly slip on his glove to field the ball – stuff the mitt and ball under his arm and pick out the baseball and throw it! People thought we can beat this guy – by bunting the ball toward the pitcher’s mound. Most of the time that got them thrown out at first by the pitcher! Jim Abbot

pitching for the New York Yankees pitched a no hitter against the Cleveland Indians. No small accomplishment! Remember Paul Wittgenstein? He was born in Austria and fought in the 1st World War. He was wounded – sent to a POW camp in Siberia where his right arm was amputated. He commissioned concert piano pieces for the left hand only! Again a fierce determination! **Why are you depressed, O my soul? And why so disturbed within me? Hope in God for I will again praise him for my salvation from the face of God.** I have often said, “Talk is cheap!” This Mother’s Day there will be all sorts of Hallmark Mother’s Day cards with such maple syrup sweet verse the card will stick shut. Talk is cheap! What more wonderful Mother’s Day than to love your Mom for Jesus’ sake. To show your love for Jesus by listening to your Mom. To show love for Jesus by listening to Mom and doing what she asks. To listen to your Mom and by listening to understand and know what would please her. And then for Jesus’ sake – to show you love your Mom by helping her here – until we all celebrate singing, “Thank you, Jesus!” – in Heaven! To God alone all glory!

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Rev. Anthony P. Schatz" in a cursive script.