

THE LESSON: EPHESIANS 2

...Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood.

In the words of the Litany we appeal to God's goodness when we say: "Spare us, good Lord". When we talk about the goodness of the Lord, we are speaking of his moral righteousness, as well as his loving-kindness. As the Psalms say, "Taste and see that the Lord is *good*; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him" (Psalm 34:8).

Scripture makes it clear that *we* cannot claim to be good. Rather, we are fallen people, living in a fallen world, separated from God, and headed for destruction. Yikes! So we know that our position is one of being offenders before a holy God, a situation that we by ourselves cannot repair. But this is not the end of the story because our good Lord "gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE "FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES", WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

If you have never specifically asked God to save you by his grace, you may want to use this time to re-read the text from Ephesians 2, confessing your need for Jesus and asking God to make these things real for you.

Spend some time quietly reflecting on the 'impossible' things in your life. Say together with the words of Jeremiah 32:17: "*Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.*". Offer to God your 'impossible' requests. Close your time of prayer with the words of Christ: "*Not my will, but yours, be done*" (Luke 22:42).

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect.

O Lord, we beseech thee favourably to hear the prayers of thy people; that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

(THE COLLECT FOR SEPTUAGESIMA, BCP PAGE 132)

EPHESIANS 2: **GOD'S GOOD GIFT**

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.