

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord (2 Peter 1:2).

It's almost a month now since we celebrated Ash Wednesday, reminding ourselves of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. Ash was placed on our foreheads as a symbol of our undertaking to spiritually go through the wilderness with Jesus. Some of us had made decisions on things that we would abstain from or adopt into our lives for the 40 days of Lent. Little did we know that the next 40 days would not simply be a remembrance of Jesus in the wilderness but that we too as individuals, as a congregation, as a community, a nation, and the entire world will go through our share of the wilderness experience. The things that we were planning to give up for a while like social media, we have had to pick them back up because they now serve as a means of communication. And the things that were meant to be our daily routine, are now restrictions. In the twinkle of an eye, we have moved into a wilderness situation that no one would have envisioned when the year began.

At one point in David's life, Saul was trying to kill him, and he ran to the wilderness of Judah where he wrote Psalms 63:

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. ²I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. ³Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. ⁴I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name, I will lift up my hands. ⁵I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips, my mouth will praise you. ⁶On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. ⁷Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. ⁸I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

While David was in a "dry and parched land where there was no water," he thirsted for God. Jesus Christ promised to give the Samaritan woman water that would make her never to thirst again. My prayer is that as we find ourselves in a dry and parched land, we will thirst more for God's Word and presence and the help of the Holy Spirit who is our living water. No matter what we are going through and what the world is going through, let us remember that God's love is better than life and let our lips continue to glorify God. Like David may we cling to our God and earnestly seek Him, for He is our present help in times of trouble. Whenever we are afraid, let us trust in God (Psalms 56:3).

As we go through this unprecedented period in history, may we remember that even though our church building is closed, we are the church in the world. You all have warmed my heart in the way you have been reaching out to help others in the church and community. If anyone needs someone to talk to or has a pastoral concern, please do not hesitate to call me at any time. I will always be available day or night. May we continue to minister to one another in humble service and may God's grace, mercy and peace be with us all now and forever, until meet together again.

Rev. Enjei