

## Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering is **TODAY** at **3pm**. Please join us!
- *Exciting news: We are restarting **Children's Ministry** in July. Cecilia Briseno has graciously offered to organize a ministry for our little ones during our Gatherings that will enable them to have some special time together during Word Gift time. Please help spread the word to all young families!*
- **SAVE THE DATE** - we are planning our next **Meet and Greet** for new families after the Gathering on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Current plan is to have a hotdog meal in Micheal Hall and then visiting while the children play in the gym.
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary content is available on our [Jubilee web page](#); past prayer meeting audio is [here](#), Word Gift summaries are [here](#), and transcripts are [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

The readings today convey situations of distress as well as instruction on how to respond. No one is immune from distress. In fact, as I ponder our normal life situation, it seems much of our lives are lived moving from one stressful situation to another. Maybe this is the normal human condition. The message of our readings today is that while distress is a reality, living in distress is not what God intends.

The [First Reading](#) highlights the all-important assurance that "*the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion*". This is really the beginning and end of how we are to respond to situations of distress. Eyes on Him! Visualizing Him as our Mighty Champion standing beside us! I recently read about Saint Padre Pio that was extra conscience of God's saints being present to aid our battles and support our doing of God's work. What a powerful image to help us in times of stress and anxiety. Maybe we can all remind ourselves to pause and visualize God, or one of His mighty angels, standing beside us as we confront whatever stressful situation we are faced with.

The [Responsorial Psalm](#) addresses everyone who is marginalized proclaiming "*the LORD hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.*" This is the

confident assurance that we all need when the world beats us down, marginalizes us for one reason or another, or insults what we say or whom we stand for. There is no getting around the attacks of the world. We live in the world, but we are not of the world. We have our eyes on our Lord and Savior and know, with grand assurance, that He is present to us, wanting better for us than we want for ourselves. All we must do is to call upon His name and surrender to His divine will.

Jesus speaks the same message in the [Gospel](#) today. He says, "fear no one" and specifically "Do not be afraid" twice. If God is for us, who can be against us? Do we really believe this? Do we act upon this with full faith and confidence?

Let us stand on the confident assurance of His presence, of His promises, and His direction and trust Him with every aspect of our lives and never let the world or any daily trial be the cause of stress or anxiety. Everything is in His hands.

*Let us pray, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything! Be present to me today. Remind me of Your promises. Help me to follow Your direction. I surrender all aspects of my life to You and trust in Your good and perfect will for my life. I love You Lord! Amen."*

God Bless,

David