Dear Ones in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the One who is Love. Let us quieten our hearts to hear God’s word for us today.

Today’s Lectionary psalm is Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. 2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. 3 But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds —     his name is the LORD  —  be exultant before  him. 5 Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. 6 God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land. 7 O God, when you went out before  your people, when you marched through the wilderness, 8 the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. 9 Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; 10 your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy. ... 32 Sing to  God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, 33 O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. 34 Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies. 35 Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people.     Blessed be God!

 Let God rise...let God rise up! What a powerful beginning to this psalm of victory. The psalmist shows that God is greater than anyone else and especially his enemies. This can be a difficult psalm read in it’s entirety for it explains the psalmist’s culture and time, which is far from what we know today.

When God shows up everything changes because the LORD is the father of orphans and protector of widows, who give the desolate a home and leads out prisoners. God is always concerned about those who are ignored by societies. God’s power is not to destroy but to lift up those who need it the most.

How would you re-write this psalm today? How would you praise God as this psalmist did? How will you find ways to safely sing praises and let God rise up in your life.

Wherever you are today practicing social distancing Sing to God. Give praise in your own way. Awesome is God. Blessed be God!

Please join me in prayer:

O Holy One, who rides in the clouds hear our prayers to see your glory. Help us give You are praise. Rise up in our lives anew. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Rev. Janice Stamper