

ISAIAH 12:1-6

THE WELL OF SALVATION

¹ *In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."*³ *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."*

What will the day of salvation look like? First, God will be at the center of it. It is his salvation given freely to us, and not something we have earned or achieved. Second, the recipients of his salvation will see God's wrath against sin become the very means of their comfort. The idea here is that of the Israelites when the Angel of Death was the way of escape from Egypt for those whose houses were covered by the blood of the lamb. Third, trust in God will overcome our fear. Through faith we will believe that his promises are true even in the face of conditions that indicate otherwise. Fourth, our response will be threefold. We will give thanks to God for what he has done. We will live our lives in dependence upon the Lord. We will announce to the world who he is and what he has done. Fifth, God's promise that he will be among his people will be fulfilled.

That "day" is an event and not a 24-hour period of time. It is an endless day that began with the birth in Bethlehem and will continue for ever. The only thing that is missing is that over which God refuses to force his will...our response. Faith is left up to us. Much like the proverbial horse and water, God leads us to the *wells of salvation*, but he will not make us drink. In Revelation, St. John describes the River of Life as flowing from the Lamb who is on the throne (Revelation 22:1). Jesus is the well of salvation to whom we are invited to come and drink. When we drink fully, thanksgiving will be on our lips, a loving obedience will be demonstrated in our lives and we will not be able to resist proclaiming God's love to the world.

Fill me O Lord with your Holy Spirit so that I might partake and enjoy your gift of salvation. Increase my thirst for the knowledge of you and your ways in order that I might grow in obedience and fulfill your purpose for my life. Amen.