



## Faith is ... Relying on Our Heavenly Father's Grace and Mercy

Opening Devotion

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ... (1 Peter 1:3).*

A German submarine sank a British freighter off Africa in 1941. The sub surfaced amid wreckage, lifeboats, and wounded men. When the British were ordered to board the sub, they thought they would be killed or captured. Instead the German captain had his doctor treat their wounds. His crewmen repaired their lifeboats. He gave them food, water, wine, and tobacco, then set them on a course for the nearest land. They were not treated as enemies, but they were shown mercy.

We have not been treated as enemies of God. Because of our sin we deserve hell which is eternal separation from Him. The grave should swallow us, and we should sink into a sea of torment forever.

No, God has not dealt with us as we deserve. He put our sins on Christ and dealt with Christ. Our Father gave us what we have not deserved. God, who is full of grace and mercy, has given us a living hope.

Our wounds have been treated and we have been clothed with Christ's own holiness. He has set us on a course for heaven. That is the sweetest truth we will ever hear!

**Prayer:** We thank You, O God, for Your mercy toward us sinners. In Jesus' most precious name we pray. Amen.

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Mustard Seed: Living in Faith, 25/30  
*Written by Rev. Darold Reiner*  
*Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, ©2007*  
*Adapted by CREC, 2017*