

Devotion for Easter Monday

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good thing apart from you.”

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, not let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 14:10-1 *The Red Sea crossing*

New Testament Reading: Matthew 28:1-20 *Jesus Christ risen from the dead*

Devotion: Raised from the dead

Occasionally, a person presumed dead spontaneously awakens. Whether they were truly dead or not is debatable. A woman in Asia was being carried on a pallet from her apartment, where she was found dead. A crowd gathered to watch the attendants carry her out. Perhaps it was the air, or the jostling, but for whatever reason she suddenly regained consciousness and sat up. When she realized what was happening, she screamed, jumped off the pallet and tore off down the street. She was terrified, but it was better than waking up during the autopsy. The crowd that had gathered, also screamed and tore off down the street, but in the opposite direction. The dead aren't supposed to rise and it's frightening when they do. That's what happens in horror movies. The soldiers who kept watch on Jesus' tomb were so frightened that Matthew says, "*They became like dead men.*"

The women who had come to anoint Jesus' body were also frightened, but they loved Jesus and believed in Him. And here is where the difference in their reactions lay. They trembled with fear at this most unusual event, but they were also filled with joy. When they encountered Jesus they didn't run away or become "*like dead men,*" they took hold of His feet and embraced Him. More than that, they worshipped Him, because who but God could rise from the dead! Jesus' resurrection changed everything in the way they saw him. He was no longer just their teacher, He was their God and Saviour!

Jesus' resurrection changes the way we see God, because it changes our relationship with God. Jesus' resurrection is God's testimony that in Him we have forgiveness of sins, a relationship of peace with Him and the promise of sharing in His resurrection to a new and eternal life.

NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS CCLI #453681

Now all the vault of heaven resounds.

In praise of love that still abounds;

Christ has triumphed! He is living!

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here;

Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Eternal is the gift he brings.
Therefore our heart with rapture sings;
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Now still he comes to give us life.
And by his presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Oh, fill us Lord, with dauntless love.
Set heart and will on things above.
That we conquer through your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day.
That by our lives we truly say:
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Prayer

Almighty God, for our redemption you have given your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross. By His glorious resurrection you have delivered us from the power of sin, death and the devil. Therefore grant that our sin may daily be drowned in repentance at the remembrance of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ. Every day may we die to sin and rise anew to live before you in righteousness and purity, until the day Christ returns and gives us our share of His resurrection to life everlasting. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

The Resurrection of our Lord

Easter is the oldest and highest of all Christian festivals, the festival of festivals, the feast of feasts! On this day, when Christ first stepped triumphantly from the ranks of the dead, all our waiting is declared to be a waiting that is already completed; Christ's triumph makes all the waiting that follows in our lives of faith a building anchored on the foundation that was laid when He whom the builders rejected became the Cornerstone. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Benediction

Matthew 28:20b

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”