

Devotion for the Third Saturday of Easter

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon your sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

*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: Leviticus 8:1-36 *Consecration of the priests*

New Testament Reading: John 12:1-57 *Jesus anointing and triumphal entry*

Anointed for death and burial

Mary, Martha and Lazarus were sisters and brother, as well as friends and followers of Jesus. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened while He taught. Jesus rebuked Martha when she complained Mary should be helping her prepare dinner. He said, "She has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." The sisters called Jesus to come when Lazarus was ill. Jesus delayed until Lazarus died. When He arrived, Mary stayed in the house. Martha greeted Him and confessed her faith, saying "Even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." He raised their brother to life, to show that He is the resurrection and the life and that all who believe in Him have life in time and fully in eternity.

Jesus visited them again before He entered Jerusalem as He journeyed to the cross. The sisters prepared a feast to celebrate the gift of life He had given Lazarus, but now it was time for Him to die. Mary honoured Him by pouring a jar of expensive perfume on His feet and wiping it with her hair. Judas protested that this was a waste of money that could have been given to the poor. It is good to give to the poor, but nothing given to Jesus is wasted. Jesus blessed her and said this was a sign of His dying. She was preparing them for something they didn't want to accept, that fact that He who gave life to Lazarus and would give eternal life for all who believe Him, would Himself die. He died to give us life. That is the mystery of His love for us and for the Father. A mystery, not because it makes no sense and cannot be understood. A mystery, because it expresses the incomprehensible depths of His love for us and for every human soul. He died that we would live. He lives that we would die and rise in Him to a new and eternal life.

"PRAISE TO THE LORD, TER ALMIGHTY" (Public Domain)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

Let all who hear, Now to his temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who over all things is wondrously reigning.

And as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen. All that is needful has been, Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;

Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew, What the Almighty can do, As with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen, Sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as your body was prepared for burial by the anointing of Mary of Bethany, so you have anointed our bodies with your Holy Spirit in baptism and prepared them for a share in your resurrection to life everlasting. As you entered Jerusalem on a path of palm branches, to the praises of the faithful of Israel, so you have entered our hearts through faith, created by the Holy Spirit through your word. Your earthly life was fulfilled in death on the cross, so that our lives would not end with death, but would be fulfilled in a share of your resurrection to everlasting life. Bless us always to believe in you as Saviour, follow you as Lord and honour you by the words and ways of our lives. In your name. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven.

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen

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

Benediction

Psalm 121:7

“The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.”