

## DEVOTION for PENTECOST 17

### PSALM 146

**Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

**Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is the Lord his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the Lord, who remains faithful forever.**

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free.

**The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but He frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.**

*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*

### Deuteronomy 28:1-14

#### *Blessings for obeying the voice of the Lord*

In order to receive blessing what did Israel need to do?

What position would Israel occupy among the nations if they obeyed?

Think about Jesus perfect obedience and the blessing we receive for His sake.

### Romans 12:1-21

#### *Living as Christians*

What does it mean to present our bodies as living sacrifices?

What is the purpose of the gifts God gives us?

How does Jesus help us overcome evil with good?

#### **“LIVING SACRIFICES”**

When St. Paul urged the Christians at Rome to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, the word sacrifice was understood as specifically referring to offerings devoted to a god. A sacrifice was something that was offered to a god, to pay a debt, to assuage the deity's anger, or simply to grease the god's palms, so the deity would be inclined to give you something. A sacrifice generally involved the ritual killing of an animal. Living sacrifice must have sounded like a contradiction of terms. Jesus changed the nature of sacrifice by offering His body on the cross to make atonement for the sin of the world.

When Jesus died the need for sacrifice as an offering in death, ceased. God accepted His sacrifice. His offering fully and forever put an end to sacrifices of blood. Those who live in Christ receive the benefits of His sacrifice daily, in the forgiveness of sin and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Those who live in Christ are able to offer themselves as living sacrifices, by seeking to love and serve others as Christ loves and serves us.

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice, by offering himself on the cross in payment for the sin of the world. Jesus was the most perfect and precious sacrifice. He gave what He did not need to give, to pay a debt He did not owe. He sacrificed because of His deep love for the Father, for us and for every human soul. He sacrificed as an expression of the kindness of God's love. St. Paul wrote, *“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy...through Jesus Christ our Saviour.”*

Because Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice unto death, we can now offer ourselves as living sacrifices; giving thanks to God, by sharing His kindness with others and by living lives that bring praise to His name. In Jesus' Name. Amen

**“TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE” (Public Domain)**

**Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for Thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing, always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be, filled with messages from Thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use, every power as Thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet my treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be ever only, all for Thee.**

**PRAYER**

Dearest Lord Jesus, you offered yourself into death as the sacrifice that atoned for the sin of the world. In you we have forgiveness, redemption from the curse of sin and the condemnation of death. Bless us with your Holy Spirit that we may daily offer you a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving by the way we live, the activities in which we engage and the words we speak. We ask this in your name Lord Jesus. 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**

**Isaiah 43:25**

***“I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”***