

Devotion for the 5th Tuesday in Lent

Psalm 147:1-11

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.
The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars; He gives all of them their names. Great is our Lord and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre! He covers the heavens with clouds; He prepares rain for the earth; He makes grass grow on the hills.

He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry. His delight is not in the strength of a horse, nor His pleasure in the legs of a man;

But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.

*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 2:23-3:22 *God remembers His covenant*

New Testament Reading: Mark 14:53-72 *Jesus tried and denied by Peter*

Devotion: The Time of Trial

Jesus was tried twice in the hours before His death; first by the Jerusalem Council, later in the day by the Roman governor. Jesus withstood the time of trial and was faithful unto death on the cross. Peter was tried in the courtyard of the high priest when he was asked three times, if he was one of Jesus' followers. Three times he failed the test and denied knowing Jesus; the third time with cursing and swearing. Testing reveals what we are made of!

Jesus was made of a perfect humanity and an eternal divinity, so it's not surprising He passed the test. Yet even with all that going for Him, when He was tested by the devil in the wilderness, He found strength in the power of the word. Peter failed the test, not because he was lesser than us or anyone else. We humans all sin and fall short of the glory of God. Peter fell because he failed to seek strength in the power of Jesus' Word.

Like Peter, we are mortal beings, children of a fallen humanity. We are ruled by fear. We are easy prey for the temptations of the world, the devil and our own sinful nature. Testing revealed Peter's sin and need for a Saviour. Testing reveals our sin and need for the Saviour. In our weakness, we see our need for Jesus. In our trials, we seek strength in Jesus and find power in the promise of His word. He was faithful unto death. In Him we have a faithful Saviour in life and in death, in time and for eternity!

Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Public Domain)

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry, Ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry, Ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev-'ry weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a solace there.

Prayer

Lord Jesus you stood strong in the time of trial in the power and promise of your heavenly Father's word, which you learned from childhood. From the word, you knew at the age of twelve that the temple was your Father's house and that you should be there. From the word of the prophets, you knew you were the Christ and that it was necessary for you to suffer these things and then enter your glory. In the court of Pontius Pilate you could have called legions of angels to your defense, but you recognized the scriptures could be fulfilled in no other way than through your suffering and death. Bless us also to seek strength in the word, so that we too may be empowered to meet the challenges of our lives and to stand in you, in time of trial. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Catechism for Lent: The Keys

We now return to the Gospel, which does not give us counsel and aid against sin in only one way. God is superabundantly generous in His grace: First, through the spoken Word, by which the forgiveness of sins is preached in the whole world (Luke 24:45-47). This is the particular office of the Gospel. Second, through Baptism. Third, through the Sacrament of the Altar. Fourth, through the Power of the Keys. Also through the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren, "Where two or three are gathered" (Matthew 18:20) and other such verses (especially Romans 1:12). Smalcald Articles III IV

Benediction

Psalm 91:1

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty."