

DEVOTION FOR THE TUESDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 119:49-56

Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope.

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise renews my life.

The arrogant mock me without restraint, but I do not turn from your law.

I remember your ancient laws, O Lord, and I find comfort in them.

Indignation grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken your law.

Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge.

In the night I remember your name, O Lord and I will keep your law.

This has been my practice: I obey your precepts.

*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: Numbers 23:1-30 *The Lord thwarts Balaam's curse*

New Testament Reading: Acts 3:1-26 *Peter speaks in the temple*

“THE MOST AMAZING THING”

Peter's speaking engagement at the temple, began with the healing of a paralyzed man. Everyone knew the man. He survived by begging for alms outside the temple. Everyone knew a great sign had been done. What did it mean? As word raced through the temple complex, a great crowd gathered. They gazed at Peter in wonder. Peter gave glory to God and took the opportunity to testify to Jesus. He asked “*Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as if by our own power or piety we have made him walk?*” It wasn't Peter and John, it was God who had made this man whole through Jesus.

The healing got their attention, but what really got their attention was what Peter said about Jesus and what they had done to Him. They had denied Him when the Roman Governor had determined to release Him. They had asked for a murderer to be released in His place. The remembrance of these painful events in their recent past, cut many of them to the heart and they felt the pain of acute guilt. But then Peter told them the most amazing thing, the good news of God's compassionate and forgiving love, for the sake of Christ Jesus. He called to them, “*Repent therefor and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.*”

The most amazing thing about the Christian faith is not the resurrection. The most amazing thing is the love of God in the forgiveness of sin and renewal of the Holy Spirit, in the hearts of those who believe. Nothing is more amazing than the love of God, expressed in His grace for the sake of Christ Jesus. That God would so love this world whose hate is expressed in the cross of Jesus, is almost beyond belief. That God would offer forgiveness to the people who had denied His Son and called for His death, is most amazing and the greatest proof of the truth of the gospel, the greatest sign of God's law and our assurance that in Christ we truly have peace with God in forgiveness.

“HOLY SPIRIT, LIGHT DIVINE” (Public Domain)

Holy Spirit, light divine, shine upon this heart of mine.

Chase the shades of night away, turn the darkness into day.

**Let me see my Saviour's face, let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me, which are only known to Thee.**

**Holy Spirit, power divine, cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me, from sin's bondage set me free.**

**Holy Spirit, joy divine, cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred settled peace, let it grow and still increase.**

**Holy Spirit all divine, dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down every idol throne, reign supreme and reign alone.**

PRAYER

Holy Spirit light divine, continue to illuminate our hearts with the gospel of God's love and mercy for the sake of Jesus. Always dwell within us. Make our bodies your home and make us to be temples of your holiness. Open our minds to understand the scriptures, so we may see Jesus in their words and receive the peace of forgiveness in their promise. Open our hearts to the needs of others and open our lips to speak the Saviour's Name. In Jesus' Name we pray. 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 61:11

“For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout before all the nations.”