

Devotion for the 3rd Wednesday of Lent

Psalm 31:1-5

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

You take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

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: **Genesis 37:1-36** *Joseph dreams and is sold by his brothers*

New Testament Reading: **Mark 10:1-12** *Jesus teaches about divorce*

Devotion: Martin Luther "Worship"

"Worship is not a function of the mouth but of the whole body. It is to bow the head, bend the body, fall on the knees, prostrate one's self, and so forth, and to do such things as a sign and acknowledgement of an authority and power; just as people bow in silence to secular princes and Lords, and just as popes, bishops, abbots, and people generally, have themselves honoured and adored by bowing and kneeling, and so forth. Such outward adoration is what the Scriptures really mean by worship.

We read in the Scriptures that worship or adoration, is rendered outwardly both to God and to kings without distinction, just as bowing and kneeling are still rendered outwardly both to God and to men.

From this understanding of outward worship you will also understand what Christ meant by true spiritual worship. It is the adoration or bowing of the heart, so that from the bottom of your heart you thereby show and confess yourself to be His subordinate creature. For from this you see that true worship can be nothing else than faith; it is faith's most sublime activity with respect to God. For no one is capable of such heartfelt confession, adoration, bending, and bowing (or whatever else you want to call it) before God in his heart, unless he unwaveringly holds God to be his Lord and Father, from whom he receives and will receive all good things, and through whom without any merit on his part, he is redeemed and preserved from all sins and evil"

Hymn: Praise and Thanksgiving CCLI #453681

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer. For all things living, Created good: Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labour, We bring to serve you. That with our neighbour, we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, We would work with you, Harvesting, milling, for daily bread.

Father, providing, food for your children, By your wise guiding, Teach us to share, One with another, so that, rejoicing, with us all others, may know your care.

Prayer

Merciful Father, your patience and loving-kindness toward us have no end. Grant that by your Holy Spirit we may always think and do those things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Catechism Lesson for Lent: The Third Petition

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

Although we have prayed for the greatest need, for the Gospel, faith and the Holy Spirit, that God may govern us and redeem us from the devil's power; In God's kingdom, we must also pray that God's will be done. For there will be strange events if we are to abide in God's will. We shall have to suffer many thrusts and blows on that account, from everything that seeks to oppose and prevent the fulfillment of the first two petitions. Large Catechism III 61

If we would be Christians, therefore, we must surely expect and count on having the devil with all his angels and the world as our enemies (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:9). They will bring every possible misfortune and grief upon us. For where God's word is preached, accepted, or believed and produces fruit, there the holy cross cannot be missing (Acts 14:22). And let no one think that he shall have peace (Matthew 10:34). He must risk whatever he has upon earth, possessions, honour, house, and estate, wife and children, body and life. Now, this hurts our flesh and the old Adam (Ephesians 4:22). The test is to be steadfast and to suffer with patience (James 5:7-8) in whatever way we are assaulted, and to let go whatever is taken from us (1 Peter 2:20-21). Large Catechism III 65-67

We have this comfort and confidence: the devil's will and purpose and all our enemies shall and must fail and come to nothing; no matter how proud, secure and powerful they know themselves to be. For if their will were not broken and hindered, God's kingdom could not remain on earth nor His name be hallowed. Large Catechism III 65-67

Prayer

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Merciful Father, you know how difficult these days are for us. In your Holy Word you have promised to hear those who cry unto you in the day of trouble. Listen to our cries for mercy and send us help from the sanctuary of your grace. Preserve us from bitterness of spirit and rescue us from every temptation to despair. Calm our frustrations with the knowledge that our lives are secure in your redeeming love, for we are baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus your Son. In Him we have the assurance that nothing will separate us from your love and the promise of eternal life in your presence, through His resurrection to life everlasting. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Benediction: 2 Peter 3:18

“But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.” Amen.