

Devotion for 4th Monday in Lent

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all His iniquities.

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 41:28-42:1-38 Joseph becomes Egypt's Steward

New Testament Reading: Mark 11:20-12:12 Jesus reveals His authority

Devotion: John Bunyan 7 Abominations in my Heart

I find to this day seven abominations in my heart: 1) An inclination to unbelief. 2) Suddenly forgetting the love and mercy that Christ shows us. 3) A leaning to works of the Law. 4) Wanderings and coldness in prayer. 5) Forgetting to watch for that for which I have prayed. 6) A tendency to murmur because I have no more, and yet a willingness to abuse what I have. 7) I can do none of those things which God commands me, but my corruptions will thrust themselves upon me so that "When I do good, evil is present with me."

These things I continually see and feel and am afflicted and oppressed with; yet the wisdom of God orders them for my good. 1) They make me abhor myself. 2) They keep me from trusting my heart. 3) They convince me of the insufficiency of all inherent righteousness. 4) They show me the necessity of flying to Jesus. 5) They press me to pray to God. 6) They show me the need I have to watch and be sober. 7) And they provoke me to look to God, through Christ, to help me and carry me through this world. Amen

I Love to Tell the Story CCLI #453681

I love to tell the story, of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings, as nothing else would do.

Chorus

**I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story, of Jesus and his love.**

I love to tell the story, 'Tis pleasant to repeat, what seems,
each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story, For some have never heard,
the message of salvation, from God's own holy Word. **Chorus**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best,
seem hungering and thirsting, to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long. **Chorus**

Prayer

The God of Comfort who comforts us in our afflictions

2 Corinthians 1:3 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. Who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."*

Heavenly Father, give us comfort in our afflictions. Deliver us from despair. Set our hope on Christ, who has delivered us from the most deadly perils; sin, the devil and death. Inspire, enable and empower us to share with others in their afflictions, the comfort we have in Christ Jesus. In Jesus most holy name we pray. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Catechism for Lent: Holy Baptism

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19 NIV).

St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying (Titus 3:5-8 NIV).

Psalm 22:9 "Yet You are He who took me from the womb; You made me trust You at my mother's breasts."

What is Baptism?

It is of the greatest importance that we value Baptism as excellent, glorious and exalted. We contend and fight for Baptism chiefly because the world is now so full of sects arguing that Baptism is an outward thing and that outward things are of no benefit. But let Baptism be a thoroughly outward thing. Here stands God's word and command, which institute, establish, and confirm Baptism. What God institutes and commands cannot be an empty thing. It must be a most precious thing, even though it looked like it had less value than a straw. Large Catechism IV 6-9

To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by men, but by God Himself. Therefore, although it is performed by human hands, it is still truly God's own work. From this fact everyone may readily conclude that Baptism is a far higher work than any work performed by a man or a saint. For what work can we do that is greater than God's work" Large Catechism IV 10

Benediction Psalm 121:7

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