

Devotion for 3rd Saturday in Lent

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised! The Lord is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

He raised the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people.

He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. 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***

Old Testament Reading: **Genesis 41:1-27** *Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams of a famine*

New Testament Reading: **Mark 11:1-19** *Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem and cleansing of the temple*

Devotion: Welcome the King

On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem as "The King of Israel." He departed Jerusalem on Good Friday to be crucified, condemned as "The King of the Jews." From a worldly point of view, things hadn't turned out well. Had He been an aspiring king in a worldly sense that would have been the end of it. The expectations surrounding him would have dissipated and He would have been forgotten to history. But even as Jesus was a king unlike any other, He was unlike any other man. He who was the "Son of David" is also the "Son of God." What appeared to be tragedy was but the prelude to the greatest triumph; the victory over sin, the devil and death, which Jesus won through His death on the cross.

Jesus was received into Jerusalem Palm Sunday as king in a worldly sense, because the pilgrims and disciples thought He would have a kingdom like David. When God speaks of heavenly things, it is our nature to think of earthly things. But Jesus is not an earthly king. His kingdom is not like the kingdoms of the world. He is the King eternal, the Son of God, who through His cross redeemed people from the kingdoms of the world to be a kingdom for His heavenly Father. We are part of His kingdom, the church, through faith and our incorporation into His body through baptism. He reigns over us in grace. He guides us by His word. He binds us together through His Spirit.

Hymn: Ride on, Ride on in majesty (LSB #441)

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark All the tribes 'hosanna' cry.
O Saviour meek, pursue Thy road,
with palms and scattered branches strewn.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain.
Then take, O God, Thy power and reign.

Prayer

God of our salvation, Your beloved Son entered the Holy City to shouts of "Hosanna!" for truly He came in the name of the Lord. Give us faith to grasp the mystery of His suffering, death and resurrection on our behalf as we journey with Him this season of Lent to the cross and to the empty tomb. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen

Catechism for Lent: The Seventh Petition and Conclusion

But deliver us from evil

Included in this petition is whatever evil may happen to us under the devil's kingdom: poverty, shame, death, and in short, all the agonizing misery and heartache of which there is such an unnumbered multitude on earth. Since the devil is not only a liar, but also a murderer (John 8:44) he constantly seeks our life. He wreaks his vengeance whenever he can afflict our bodies with misfortune and harm....So there is nothing for us to do upon earth but to pray against this archenemy without stopping. For unless God preserved us, we would not be safe from this enemy even for an hour. Large Catechism III 115-116

Amen

But all depends upon this that we learn also to say "Amen." This means that we do not doubt that our prayer is surely heard and that what we pray shall be done (2 Corinthians 1:20). This is nothing else than the word of undoubting faith, which does not pray on a dare but knows that God will not lie to him (Titus 1:2). For He has promised to grant it. Large Catechism III 119-120