

Devotion for Tuesday in Holy Week

Psalm 6

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord heal me, for my bones are in agony.

My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long? Turn and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

No one remembers you when he is dead. Who praises you from the grave?

I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.

My eyes grow faint with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. Away from me, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping.

The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer. May all my enemies be ashamed and dismayed; may they turn back in sudden disgrace.

*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 9:29-10:20 *Plagues of hail and locust*

New Testament Reading: Matthew 22:1-46 *Jesus displays His Wisdom*

The Sacred Meal of the Covenant

Passover was the sacred meal of the Old Covenant. In contrast to the sacred meal Jesus instituted, the Passover was not a meal of forgiveness; rather it was a meal of remembrance. When children asked what the Passover meal meant the parents were to say, “*It is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover, for He passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when He struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.*” The meal Jesus instituted at the Passover is first and foremost a meal for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus said to do this in remembrance of Him, so we would remember the sacrifice of His cross and the payment of our sins. We come to the Lord’s Supper to remember Jesus’ sacrifice and to receive what He earned for us through the shedding of His blood, forgiveness of our sins.

The sacrifice of animals was part of the covenant the Lord made with Israel at Mount Sinai. These sacrifices did not take sin away; rather they showed God’s forbearance at sin and pointed to the sacrifice Jesus would make that would truly atone for human sin. It says in the letter to the Hebrews, “*But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin.*” The blood that takes away sin is the blood Jesus shed on the cross.

Jesus gathered His disciples for Passover so that He might prepare them for the sacrifice of His cross, through which He would make a New Covenant between God and all people through the shedding of His blood. The Passover commemorated the Covenant God made through Moses, between Himself and Israel. It was made specifically with the people of Israel. Jesus would make a New Covenant between God and all people, through the sacrifice of His body on the cross. Jesus is a greater mediator than Moses, for He is the eternal Son of God. The covenant Jesus mediated is greater in scope than the Covenant of Mount Sinai, as it includes people from every nation under heaven. The Covenant Jesus mediated is more effective for it gives what Moses could never give, the forgiveness of sins and eternal life for those who believe.

Lead On, O King Eternal

**Lead on, O King Eternal, The Day of march has come;
Hence forth in fields of conquest, Thy tents shall be our home.
Thro’ days of preparation, Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal, We lift our battle song.**

**Lead on O King Eternal, Till sin’s fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper, The sweet Amen of peace;
For not with swords loud clashing, Nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy, Thy heavenly kingdom comes.**

**Lead on, O King Eternal, We follow, not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning, Wherever Thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted o'er us; We journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest; Lead on, O God of might.**

Prayer

O Lord, support us through all the days of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then Lord, in your mercy, grant to us safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is our peace through the blood of the New Covenant. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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

Catechism for Lent: The Benefit of Sacrament of the Altar

What we should seek and gain in this sacrament is plain and clear from the words just mentioned, "This is my body and blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." For this reason we go to the Sacrament: there we receive such a treasure by and in which we gain forgiveness of sins. Large Catechism V20

Benediction

Psalm 37:39

"The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their stronghold in time of trouble."