

## DEVOTION FOR THE SIXTH WEEK OF PENTECOST

### PSALM 131

**My heart is not proud, O Lord, my eyes are not haughty;**

I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me.

**But I have stilled and quieted my soul;**

Like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me.

**O Israel, put your hope in the Lord both now and forevermore.**

*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: Deuteronomy 17:1-20 Israel must purge itself of evil

New Testament Reading: Romans 1:1-32 *Nature testifies to the presence of God*

### “GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN”

Telescopes that probe the depths of space routinely send the most amazing pictures of stars, nebula, and spiral galaxies. I saw a photograph of twin spiral galaxies that circled around each other, as they danced through the heavens. It was truly breath taking. Paul writes, *“For whatever can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”*

The physical world declares the glory and power of God. Yet, the most amazing things about God are not found in the physical world, but in the lives of human beings. The most magnificent things about God are the many ways in which He expresses His love to human beings on a daily basis. God would have more than enough to do managing the universe, the expanse of which defies our comprehension; nevertheless He finds the time to preserve the world and all who dwell in it. The author of Psalm 143 observed, *“the eyes of all look to you and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.”*

God does this for human beings and for every creature His hand has made. His providence extends not only to those who give thanks, but to those who never give Him a second thought and includes those who only use His name for a curse. Jesus said, *“He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”* God’s glory expressed in His kindness to human beings, shines brighter than the stars on a moonless night.

The glory of God expressed in His kindness to all things living, serves as the backdrop for the greatest expression of the divine being; His compassion expressed in forgiveness for the sake of Jesus. God’s love expressed in forgiveness is more breath-taking than anything else in creation, including twin spiral galaxies. God reveals His presence and power in the things He has made. He reveals His presence most powerfully in Jesus our Saviour.

### “HOW GREAT THOU ART” (CCLI #453681)

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the works thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

#### Chorus

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee.  
How Great Thou art! How Great Thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Chorus**

**But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in.  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin; Chorus**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim: ‘My God, how great Thou Art! Chorus**

### **PRAYER**

Holy God you proclaim your majesty in the things that have been made and express your power in the laws of the universe. Through sin human beings have turned from your majesty, lost sight of your presence and followed in the ways of sin that lead to condemnation. We all sin, fall short of your glory and are condemned by your holy law. Yet, you express your presence most kindly in the pardon of forgiveness pronounced, for the sake of Jesus and given to all who receive Him in faith. We thank you for opening our eyes to see Jesus and for opening our hearts to receive Him as Saviour. Bless us always to see Him in your word and to hold Him in our hearts through faith. 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**

**Psalm 136:26**

***“Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever.”***