

DEVOTION FOR THE SEVENTH THURSDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 119:25-32

My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!

When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes!

Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!

Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!

I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your rules before me.

I cling to your testimonies, O Lord; let me not be put to shame!

I run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

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: Numbers 17:1-18:7 *The Lord affirms Aaron's priesthood*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 13:1-25 *Pleasing God with our lives*

“SHARING IN CHRIST”

The author of Hebrews calls upon us to bear the reproach Christ endured. We honour God by following Jesus even if it means sharing in the reproach, which He endured. Christians in many parts of the world suffer shame and face the threat of physical violence and death. We are very blessed to live in a place where this is virtually unknown. Although we may not fear physical assault or death, there may be situations in which we hesitate to share Christ, or identify ourselves as Christians. We fear embarrassment! We naturally like to fit in with the larger group! There are times we may be tempted to compromise, or hide our beliefs. We remember Jesus is faithful even when we are timid and afraid. He promises to give us courage to speak, words to say; forgiveness to strengthen and sustain us. He says, “*Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you.*” We are bold to say “*The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?*”

We honour God by continually offering a sacrifice of praise; testifying to Jesus our Saviour with our lips and with our lives. There are many ways to praise God and bear witness to Jesus. The author lists a few: by showing hospitality to strangers, caring for the sick, extending compassion to the imprisoned, honouring God with our bodies, trusting Him in and through all things, confessing our faith and sharing the message of salvation with others. These also serve to remind us that heaven is our home and from there we await our Saviour. As the author of Hebrews reminds us, “*Here we have no lasting city. We seek the city that is to come.*” God keep us in His grace that we may remain full of faith and faithful to Him, until we take our place in His presence eternally for the sake of Jesus. In His Name. Amen

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, you are faithful to help, defend and save us. We thank you for the reproach you bore for the sake of our salvation, in the sacrifice of your life on the cross. Bless us to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving: by honouring you with our lips and with our lives; by expressing Christian hospitality to others; by sharing the good news of life and salvation through faith in you. Bless us always to remember that even when we are not, that you are always faithful! Bless us to confidently express our faith in you. In your name. Amen

“JERUSALEM MY HAPPY HOME” (Public Domain)
Jerusalem my happy home. When shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?

O happy harbour of the saints. O Sweet and pleasant soil!
In thee no sorrow may be found. No grief, no care, no toil.

Thy gardens and thy gallant walks, continually are green.
There grow such sweet and pleasant flowers as nowhere else are seen.

There trees forevermore bear fruit and evermore do spring.
There evermore the angels dwell and evermore do sing.

Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there, around my Saviour stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below, will join the glorious band.

O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare for that bright home of love.
That I may see Thee and adore, with all Thy saints above.

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

Hebrews 13:6

“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear;
What can man do to me?”