

## DEVOTION FOR THE SIXTH SATURDAY OF EASTER

### PSALM 111

**Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.**

Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

**Glorious and majestic are His deeds, and His righteousness endures forever.**

He has caused His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

**He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.**

He has shown His people the power of His works, giving them the lands of other nations.

**The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy.**

They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.

**He provided redemption for His people; He ordained His covenant forever—holy and awesome is His name.**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise.

*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 12:1-16 *Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 9:1-13 *Redemption by Christ's blood*

### “PREPARED TO MEET GOD”

After Moses led Israel out of Egypt, he brought them to Mount Sinai and prepared them to meet their God. The Lord gave Moses regulations for worship and sacrifice in the Tabernacle. He set apart Aaron and his sons as priests and told them how to prepare themselves, to meet God in the sanctuary. Meeting God was a serious matter. Two of Aaron's sons failed to properly prepare themselves and died as a result. It was a serious matter to enter into the presence of the Holy God in His sanctuary. A person had to be properly prepared, so as not to suffer harm because of the Lord's holiness. The Lord's holiness consumes sin and sinful people, if they are not properly prepared and protected.

The priests who served in the Tabernacle and Temple, prepared by clothing themselves in the garments the Lord had prescribed; and by offering sacrifice for their sins. The high priest would enter the Most Holy Place once a year, to offer sacrifice for the sins of the nation. In case he had not properly prepared himself, a rope was tied to his ankle so he could be pulled out, if he died. The prophet Isaiah was drawn into the presence of God in a vision. He felt his sin burn in the light of God's holiness. The Lord sent an angel to prepare him to stand in God's presence, by covering his sin.

In Hebrews chapter nine it says, “*It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes the judgement.*” Are we prepared to meet God? The good news of the gospel is that Jesus has done everything necessary to prepare us to meet God and stand in His presence. Jesus has entered into the presence of God as our Great High Priest, with the blood He offered on the cross to atone for our sin and the sin of the world. He cleanses us from the guilt of our sin, through the washing of Holy Baptism. He covers our sin with the garments of His righteousness, received through faith in His Name. In Jesus we are fully prepared to meet God.

We meet God in His word, by which His Spirit speaks to our spirits. We meet God in the waters of Holy Baptism, in which He daily washes away the stain of our sin. We meet God in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood; given, shed and received for the forgiveness of our sin. We meet God now, through faith for the sake of Jesus. We look forward to the day when we will meet God face to face, in the final judgement. Yes, because of Jesus that's something we can look forward to! The author of Hebrews writes, “*Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.*” We look forward to that day, because in Jesus we are fully prepared.

**“JESUS THY BLOOD & RIGHTEOUSNESS” (Public Domain)**

**Jesus Thy blood and righteousness, my beauty are my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great day, cleansed and redeemed no debt to pay;  
Fully absolved through these I am, from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, which at the mercy seat of God,  
Pleads for the captives liberty, was also shed in love for me.**

**Lord, I believe were sinners more, than sands upon the ocean shore,  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, for all a full atonement made.**

**When from the dust of death I rise, to claim my mansion in the skies;  
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.**

**Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
For me, and all Thy hands have made, an everlasting ransom paid.**

**PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, in the kindness of your love, you have brought us into your presence through faith in Jesus and for the sake of His blood, shed for the atonement of sin. You draw us to yourself through the word and by the sacraments. You come to us in Christ when we gather as believers, no matter how small we are in number. Through your Spirit you are with us, even when we are apart! Bless us to draw near to you in prayer. Bless us to bring each other, our friends, families and others to you, in our prayers. Keep us in your grace, until the day you call us stand in your presence in the resurrection of Jesus, cleansed and redeemed in His blood. 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 9:26**

**“But as it is, He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”**