

DEVOTION FOR THE SECOND TUESDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 119:89-96

Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.

If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have renewed my life.

Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts.

The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes.

To all perfection I see a limit; but your commands are boundless.

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 30:1-16 *Vows to the Lord*

New Testament Reading: Acts 8:1-40 *The Spirit works faith through all things*

“THE GOSPEL TO THE NATIONS”

With the death of Stephen the Jerusalem church was scattered. Believers returned to the places from which they had first come as devout Jews, to attend the feast of Pentecost. Saul ravaged the church that remained. Perhaps the devil thought it was his day. It didn't look good, but that persecution was the catalyst for the gospel to spread to all nations. The believers who left Jerusalem took their faith with them and shared it freely, as they made their way home. The Holy Spirit created faith and established congregations of believers throughout the Roman world, through the witness of the returning pilgrims. The gospel was for everyone!

The gospel healed divisions! The animosity between Jew and Samaritan was resolved in the gospel of Christ. When the apostles heard that the Samaritans had received the gospel through the witness of Philip, they immediately sent Peter and John to affirm their brotherhood, by praying for a manifestation of the Holy Spirit like the one the church in Jerusalem received on the day of Pentecost. In this outpouring of the Spirit, God testified that their divisions were gone and they were reconciled in Christ.

The Spirit continued His work, by sending Philip to speak to an Ethiopian Official, who was reading from Isaiah as he rode in his chariot. Philip explained to him the meaning of the scripture, saying it referred to Jesus; the sacrifice of His cross and the salvation that comes to all who believe and are baptized in His name. The Spirit opened his heart to believe and he received the baptism of eternal life, in the name of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God's love in Christ embraces the world and reaches out to people of every race in the gospel of forgiveness. In God's eyes there is only one race; the human race. He desires all people to become His people in Christ Jesus!

“MAY GOD BESTOW ON US HIS GRACE” (Public Domain)

May God bestow on us His grace, with blessings rich provide us.

And may the brightness of His face, to life eternal guide us.

That we His saving health shall know, His gracious will and pleasure.

And also to the nations show, Christ's riches without measure.

And unto God convert them.

Thine over all shall be the praise and thanks of every nation.

And all the world with joy shall raise the voice of exaltation.

For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord, nor suffer sin to flourish.

Thy people's pasture is Thy Word, their souls to feed and nourish.

In righteous paths to keep them.

O Let the people praise Thy worth, in all good works increasing.

The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth, Thy word is rich in blessing.

May God the Father, God the Son, And God the Holy Spirit bless us!

Let all the world praise Him alone, let solemn awe possess us.

Now let our hearts say, “Amen.”

PRAYER

Holy God, in and through all things you work your good in the life of the world and in the human heart. Through persecution and the scattering of believers in Jerusalem, you sent the gospel to the nations. Through the good news of forgiveness and reconciliation in the cross of Jesus, you brought healing to Jews and Samaritans. In the waters of baptism, you make all people your holy people and wash away the racial and tribal divisions, by which we separate ourselves from others. May your holy gospel of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace continue to be proclaimed throughout the world! May the nations of the earth may become your holy people and live in the peace of Christ the Saviour. In His Name. 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

Isaiah 61:11

“For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.”