

DEVOTION FO THE FIFTH TUESDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 40:6-11

Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;

behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from me;

your steadfast love and faithfulness will ever preserve me!

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: Leviticus 23:1-22 *The Lord's Sabbath and feasts*

New Testament Reading: John 20:1-30 *Jesus rises and appears to the disciples*

'BELIEVE & HAVE A LIFE IN HIS NAME'

In summary of his account of Jesus' resurrection and ministry, St. John wrote, "*Now Jesus did many other signs, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God that believing you may have life in his name.*" Centuries earlier the prophet Isaiah sang, "*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news.*" We need to hear the word of God, because as Paul says "*faith comes by what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.*" Jesus emphasized the necessity of hearing the word in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. When the rich man requested that Lazarus be sent from the dead to warn his brothers, so they would not join him in Hades, Abraham said, "*If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets they will not be convinced, even if someone should return from the dead.*" Faith comes by hearing the word of the Lord spoken by Moses, the Prophets and the Evangelists and apostles. Their words lead us to Jesus our Saviour, in whom is the fullness of life and eternal salvation.

We hear the word in worship, which is why we gather each Sunday. We study the word in scripture, which is why we read the bible daily. We share the word in fellowship with other believers, which is why we meet for study, prayer and conversation. We receive the blessing of the word in absolution and communion. The word of the Lord give us light in the shadow of death and hope in the valley of sorrow. The words of the Lord are life, light and salvation! The words of the Lord lead us to Jesus, in whom we have the promise of a life in eternity so wonderful that if we could return to this life, we wouldn't want to go back. We hear the word of the Lord, because as St. Peter said to Jesus, "*You have the words of eternal life.*" God gives us His word that by the working of the Holy Spirit, we would believe Jesus is the Christ, our Saviour and have life in His Name.

"IN THE GARDEN" CCLI #453681

**I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses;
and the voice I hear falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses.**

Chorus

And He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am his own.

And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

**He speaks and the sound of His voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
and the melody that He gave to me within my heart is ringing. Chorus**

**I'd stay in the garden with Him, though the night around me be falling;
but He bids me go thru the voice of woe, His voice to me is calling. Chorus**

PRAYER

Lord Jesus during this Easter season bless us with a sense of the joy felt by the disciples, when they realized that you really were risen from the dead. Bless us to seize hold of you with the joy of Mary Magdalene, when you called her name and opened her eyes to see you. Be present in our midst through your word, so your peace may dwell among us. Bless us always to see you in your word, believe in you in our hearts and confess with Thomas, “My Lord and my God.”

“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

John 20:29

“Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”