

## Devotion for Easter Saturday

### Psalm 30

**I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

**O Lord, you have brought up my life from Sheol, you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.

**For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

**By your favor, O Lord, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.**

To you, O Lord, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy.

**"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?"**

Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me! O Lord, be my helper!"

**You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.**

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

*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: Exodus 19:1-20:21 *Mount Sinai and the commandments*

New Testament Reading: Acts 9:1-22 *Jesus appears to Paul*

### Devotion: Jesus calls Paul

The Lord works in a mysterious way and this is most evident in the conversion of St. Paul. We meet Paul in the book of Acts, where he checks the coats of those who murder of Stephen, the first Christian to die for his faith in Jesus as Saviour. Although Paul did not join them in casting stones, he took what he had seen to heart and eventually outdid his fellows in persecuting the Church of Jesus.

Paul sought to destroy the Church, because he did not believe Jesus was the Christ or had risen from the dead. But while he was on his way to persecute the Church in Damascus, the risen Lord Jesus appeared to him and asked, "*Why are you persecuting me?*" Jesus gave him three days to think about that and then sent a believer named Ananias to baptize him. His grace was not without effect. It both converted Paul and motivated him to take the message of God's grace in Christ Jesus to the ends of the earth. In 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 Paul wrote, "*For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am and his grace to me was not without effect.*"

To this end, Paul worked harder than any of the other apostles. He realized if God's grace in Christ Jesus could save a lost, dead and blind Pharisee like himself, it can be effective in any life. We remember Jesus' appearance and Paul's conversion, so we may remember God's grace which has opened our eyes to see Jesus as Lord and opened our hearts to receive Him as Saviour. We pray that like Paul, the Holy Spirit may open our lips to share God's grace in Christ Jesus with others. His grace is never without effect and what He has done for Paul and for us, He can do for someone else, may be even some as unlikely as Paul.

### **Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story**

I love to tell the story, of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings, as nothing else would do.

### **Chorus**

I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, 'Tis pleasant to repeat,  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard,  
the message of salvation, from God's own holy Word. **Chorus**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best,  
seem hungering and thirsting, to hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **Chorus**

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus we give you thanks that you appear to us through your word, by which you wash us of our sins, nourish our faith and fill us with your Spirit. Even as you have opened our eyes to see you as our resurrected Saviour and Lord, open our eyes for opportunities to share your grace with others. Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **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 54:4**

*"Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the upholder of my life."*