

Devotion for the Second Tuesday of Easter

Psalm 41

Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him.

The Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in illness you restore him to full health.

As for me, I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!"

My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out he tells it abroad.

All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."

Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen

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 23:14-33 *Sabbath, festivals and Promised Land*

New Testament Reading: John 2:1-25 *Jesus reveals His glory*

Devotion: Seeing the Saviour

The young couple at Cana in Galilee didn't realize how honoured they were to have Jesus at their wedding; even as they didn't realize the great gift He gave them by changing water into wine. Jesus was an invited guest, as were His mother and His disciples. How He came to be invited is uncertain. One of His disciples, Nathaniel, was from Cana. Perhaps Jesus and the others were invited because of their relationship with him. Probably they knew He was present. In a certain sense they may have known who He was, 'the friend of Nathaniel.' Yet they did not know who He really was as the Christ and the Son of God from eternity. Although they were unaware, they were doubly blessed. First, to have the Christ as guest. Secondly, to have the Son of God first reveal His glory at their marriage banquet. The irony is that the only ones who knew were the servants who had drawn the water and Jesus' disciples, who as John says saw and "*believed in him.*"

We can't blame the young couple for not realizing who He really was at that time. His glory was hidden behind the veil of His humanity. Jesus was hesitant to reveal His glory until the Holy Spirit moved him after His mother made her plea for help—"They have no wine." We can't blame them for not seeing what they could not see. But it should make us consider how often Jesus reveals His glory to us and we also do not see? God gives us many blessings in time. He gives us time and the gift of life. How often do we stop to consider what a great and wondrous gift that is? He blesses us with every physical comfort; the food that we eat, the clothes we wear and the people with whom we share the gift of life. He blesses us in our bodies that we might seek him in our spirits. And of course He reveals Himself as the Christ, the Son of God, our Saviour through His word, by the water of baptism and in the bread and wine of communion. In these ways He opens our eyes to see Him who can only be seen through faith.

Hymn: Come Join in Cana's Feast CCLI #453681
Come join in Cana's feast, where Christ is honoured guest.
He welcomes all who come to taste, the wine His hands have blessed.

The old wine now is gone, from jars that stand apart.
No longer can it satisfy, the yearning, thirsting heart.

But Christ, the Word made flesh, bids water turn to wine.
He fills our empty cups again, with grace and truth divine.

Come, friends, and share the feast; here drink the wine supplied,
By Him who is both guest and host, for us, the crucified.

For now He lives and reigns, through all eternity,
With Father, Spirit, Three in One, the glorious Trinity.

Prayer

Dearest Jesus as you blessed a young couple with your presence at their marriage feast, bless us with your presence at all our feasts; be they large or small. Bless us with the awareness of your gracious presence in every part of our daily lives. Open our ears to hear your words, so that through eyes of faith we may see your glory in love and may receive you as Saviour through the forgiveness of your cross. Keep us in your grace until the day you call us to share in the banquet of eternal life in your Father's kingdom, which you have prepared for us through your dying and rising. In Your Name. 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 70:4

***"May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore,
'God is great!'"***

