

DEVOTION FOR THE FIFTH THURSDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 107:1-9

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say this—those He redeemed from the hand of the foe.

Those He gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. They were hungry and thirsty and their lives ebbed away.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

*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 24:1-23 *The bread of presence and the law*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 1:1-14 *God speaks by His Son*

“THE PROPHETS LEAD US TO JESUS”

In times past, God spoke through the prophets in many ways. Through some He simply spoke. Isaiah and Jeremiah preached many years to Israel that they would repent and trust the Lord. Through some He performed mighty signs. Elijah and Elisha prayed and the Lord restored life to the dead. Through others He illustrated His words with action. Ezekiel enacted the siege of Jerusalem. He built a scale model of the city and lay in front of it for 390 days. He enacted the march of the exiles to Babylon, by walking about bare naked. For the Babylonians would strip the Judeans bare and march them into exile. God spoke through the prophets in many and various ways, but He always spoke the same message of repentance, faithfulness to His covenant and the promise of His steadfast love that endures forever.

The most important message He spoke through the prophets was the promise of His Son, through whom He would save His people from their sins and by whom He would bring the blessing of salvation to the nations. Through Isaiah He said, *“To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* All the prophets prepared for Jesus! In Revelation, the last prophetic book, it is written, *“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”* In the book of Acts, St. Peter said of Jesus, *“To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”* All the prophets lead us to Jesus, so we might believe and have life in His name!

God speaks to us through His Son. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature. We listen to Him, because He is the eternal Word of God, by whom all things were created and in whom all things hold together. We listen to Him, because He put the words of the prophets into action, earning forgiveness and making salvation by offering His body and shedding His blood, on the cross. Moses and Elijah stood with Him when He revealed His divine glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. Their words had foretold His birth, His life, the salvation He accomplished through His death on the cross and the life He brings through His resurrection to all who believe. All true prophets and teachers lead us to Jesus and the sacrifice of His cross. He speaks the words of eternal life. He is the Eternal Word of life made flesh for our salvation.

“GOD HAS SPOKEN BY HIS PROPHETS” CCLI #453681

**God has spoken by His prophets, spoken His unchanging Word;
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world’s despair and turmoil, one firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, His throne eternal; God the first, and God the last.**

**God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father’s glory, with the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word incarnate, God of God before time was;
Light of Light, to earth descending, He reveals our God to us.**

**God is speaking by His Spirit, speaking to our hearts again,
In the ageless Word declaring His own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations one sure faith yet standing fast;
God abides, His Word unchanging; God the first, and God the last.**

Prayer

God, in times past you spoke by your prophets, but in these last days you have spoken through your Son. He is the fullest expression of your divine nature and gave the fullest expression of your steadfast love, in sharing our humanity and bearing the guilt of our sin on the cross. For a time He was lower than the angels, but now He is exalted above the heavens. Yet, He continues to come to us with His grace and mercy. Bless us God that we may always listen to His voice and follow His call, until He calls us to come up and share with Him the glory He has had with you from eternity. In Jesus’ 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

Micah 7:19

“He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”