

Devotion for Easter 2

Psalm 118:14-29

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous.

The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, the right hand of the Lord exalts,
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up the horns of the altar!

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God;

I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures 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

Acts 3:1-26

Peter proclaims Jesus as the Prophet God promised through Moses

How did the healing of the disabled man reinforce Peter's words about Jesus?

Where did Peter find proof that the Messiah would suffer?

How should we respond to Jesus' resurrection?

Luke 24:1-50

Jesus rises and appears to the disciples

Why did the disciples not remember Jesus' promise to rise?

Why did they doubt the witness of the women who saw Him?

Why did Jesus lead the disciples into the scriptures before revealing Himself?

Seeing Jesus

One of the themes of Easter, apart from Jesus' resurrection, is the importance of studying the scriptures and seeing Jesus in them. When Thomas expressed faith after seeing Him, Jesus said, "*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*" We see Jesus and believe him through the witness of Holy Scripture. John said, "*These things are written that you may believe Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, that believing you may have life in his name.*"

In Luke's gospel Jesus chastises two disciples, not for disbelieving the witness of the women who saw Him risen, but for not believing all that the prophets had spoken that it was necessary that the Christ "*should suffer these things and enter into His glory.*" The disciples saw and then believed, but Jesus wanted them to believe first. He wanted them to believe and give witness to what they had seen through the witness of scripture.

After Jesus returned to the Father they would only see Him in the scriptures, especially in the words He had spoken, which the Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance. Even when the apostles spoke of their experience with Jesus, they grounded that experience in the words of scripture. When Peter related his experience on the Mount of Transfiguration, he concluded by leading us to the scriptures for certainty, saying, "*We have something more certain, the prophetic word, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place.*"

We understand God and perceive His will in the world and for our lives, by studying the scriptures. In the scriptures God reveals His desire that we would become His children through faith in Jesus and the sacrifice He made on the cross. In the scriptures God clearly expresses His purpose for us as His people; that we would make known His Name and the salvation He has prepared for all people, by making the Name of Jesus known and leading others to see Him in the scriptures. In the scriptures we see Jesus. They testify that He is Saviour and that in Him we have forgiveness in time and life in eternity.

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (CCLI#453681)

**Now all the vault of heaven resounds. In praise of love that still abounds;
Christ has triumphed! He is living! Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here; Christ has triumphed!
Christ has triumphed! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Eternal is the gift he brings. Therefore, our heart with rapture sings;
Christ has triumphed! He is living! Now still he comes to give us life.
And by his presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Oh, fill us Lord, with dauntless love. Set heart and will on things above.
That we conquer through your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life’s day.
That by our lives we truly say: Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Prayer

Dearest Jesus, as you walked with the sorrowing disciples on the road to Emmaus, walk with us as we journey in the world and help us bear our sorrows. Bless us with your presence through your Spirit and in the companionship of fellow believers. Encourage our spirits by your Spirit in the hearing, reading and discussing of the sacred scriptures. Open our eyes to see your presence in your Holy Supper. Nourish our spirits, strengthen our faith, encourage our witness through the gift of your holy body and precious blood, given under the forms of bread and wine for our forgiveness. In your 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

2 Peter 1:2

“May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

Jesus revealed Himself at the Sea of Galilee by directing the disciples to a catch of fish. How many fish were caught?

What did Jesus ask Peter three times when He revealed Himself on the Sea of Galilee?

What is the number of the largest group that Jesus appeared to after His resurrection?

Answers to last week’s quiz

40 days. (Acts 1:3)

Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and two unnamed. (John 21:1-2)

Seven. (Luke 8:2)