

DEVOTION FOR THE SIXTH MONDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 107:23-32

Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters.

They saw the deeds of the Lord, His wondrous works in the deep.

For He commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.

They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight.

They reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits end.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress.

He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and He brought them to their desired haven.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works for the children of men!

Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.

*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 27:1-34 *Laws Regarding vows to the Lord*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 4:1-16 *Jesus our High Priest*

“HELP IN TEMPTATION, GRACE IN EVERY NEED”

Temptation is part of life. There is always part of us that wants what it shouldn't have. Tell a child not to touch something and he or she will be even more enticed. In fact, being told not to do something, increases our desire to do it. Forbidden fruit looks sweet! Take Adam and Eve as a cautionary tale. They were living in paradise. Everything they needed was at their disposal. Every wish was the Lord's command. There was nothing good the Lord withheld from them, but they wanted more and when put to the test they gave into temptation.

Temptation is part of life, even for those who have faith in Christ. In fact, the devil works twice as hard on Christians. Both, because he is fighting against the resistance of conscience God placed in the fallen human spirit, but mostly because he is fighting against the Holy Spirit, who through baptism has been given to dwell in the hearts of all who believe. At the baptism of an infant, Martin Luther once observed that by doing this we have made this child an enemy of the devil, who for the rest of her life, will use every weapon in his arsenal to lure her into temptation and destroy her faith. But our comfort, assurance and strength is that He who is for us in our baptism is greater than everything that is against us.

Jesus is for us in forgiveness and with us in temptation. He is sympathetic to our weaknesses. He was tempted as we are, yet without sin. He is able to give us strength in time of testing and mercy to lift us up, when we fail the test and fall into sin. We have a great high priest who knows our weaknesses and who loves us. He is stronger than everything that is against us. He loves us more than we can ever know. At all times and especially in times of temptation, we think of Jesus and take to heart the counsel of the author of Hebrews who says, *“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* In Jesus' Name. Amen

“I WALK IN DANGER ALL THE WAY (Public Domain)
I walk in danger all the way. The thought shall never leave me.
That Satan who has marked his prey, is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares, may seize me unawares,
If I should fail to watch and pray. I walk in danger all the way.

I pass through trials all the way, with sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day, the cross of God’s own sending.
When in adversity, I know not where to flee.
When storms of woe, my soul dismay, I walk through trials all the way.

And death pursues me all the way, nowhere I rest securely;
He comes by night, he comes by day. He takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath and I in death’s grasp may lie,
To face eternity today, as death pursues me all the way.

I walk with Jesus all the way, His guidance never fails me;
Within His wounds I find a stay. When Satan’s power assails me.
And by His footsteps led, my path I safely tread.
No evil leads my soul astray; I walk with Jesus all the way.

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, you are our peace in relationship with your heavenly Father. You give us rest from the turmoil of temptation and sin. You were tempted as we are yet without sin. You know the struggles we face and the trials we must endure. You are kind, loving and sympathetic to all our needs. Bless us to look to you for mercy and strength in all our struggles, trials and temptations. As our great high priest, you sacrificed yourself for our sins and offer yourself to us as a continuous source of mercy, grace and help at all times. 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

Hebrews 4:16

“Let us then with confidence draw near the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”