

## DEVOTION FOR THE FOURTH FRIDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### PSALM 124

**If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say— if it had not been the Lord who was on our side when people rose up against us,  
Then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;  
Then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.**

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth!

**We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!**  
Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

*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: Deuteronomy 9:1-29 *Moses intercession for the people*

New Testament Reading: Acts 21:27-40 *Paul arrested in the temple*

### **“NOT BECAUSE OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS”**

Israel was the chosen people of God, yet not because of their righteousness. God chose Israel because He loved them. He loved them not because of their righteousness, but because of His righteousness and desire that His name and love be made known throughout the earth.

The Lord loved Israel despite their unrighteousness, which manifested itself in rebellion against Moses, Aaron and Miriam; in grumbling against the Lord; in refusing to trust the Lord to bring them into the Promised Land; and in idolatry. Israel's unrighteousness (expressed in their rebellious ways) serves as the dark backdrop against which God's righteousness (expressed in love) is highlighted. God loved Israel for the sake of His righteousness. God loves us because of His righteousness.

St. Paul said that the things that happened to ancient Israel serve as examples and warnings to us, who live at the end of the ages. Israel's disobedience shows us our sin. Moses' intercession for Israel, pleading for God's mercy, shows Jesus' intercession, pleading for our forgiveness. God's righteousness is most fully expressed in Jesus, who pleads for us as Moses did for Israel, but who also gives His righteousness to cover our sin. We live as God's people, not because of our righteousness, but for the sake of Jesus' righteousness.

### **“JESUS, THOU ART HOLY” (CCLI #453681)**

**Jesus, Thou art holy, the holy Son of God, The holy Son of God;  
Alleluia to Thy Name, Alleluia to Thy Name, Alleluia to Thy Name. Jesus.**

**Jesus, Thou art worthy, worthy to be praised, worthy to be praised;  
Alleluia to Thy Name, Alleluia to Thy Name, Alleluia to Thy Name. Jesus**

**Jesus, Thou art Saviour, Saviour of the world Saviour of the world;  
Alleluia to Thy Name, Alleluia to Thy Name, Alleluia to Thy Name. Jesus**

**Jesus, Thou art master, the master of my heart the master of my heart;  
Alleluia to Thy Name, Alleluia to Thy Name, Alleluia to Thy Name. Jesus**

## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus you are our righteousness, by which our sin is covered in forgiveness and through whom our sin will forever be destroyed in the age to come. Bless us always with your Spirit that we may receive your righteousness in the washing of our Baptism, in the word of absolution, in the gift of your Holy Body and Precious blood. Lead us to live in your righteousness through all our days, until the day you call us from this life to await the fullness of life and our complete clothing in your righteousness, in the resurrection to life everlasting. In your name we pray. 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**

**Psalm 106:2**

***“Who can utter the mighty deeds of the Lord, or declare His praise? Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.”***