

Devotion for Second Monday of Easter

Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."

Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord, who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;" I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

*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 20:1-21 *Mount Sinai and the commandments*

New Testament Reading: John 1:1-51

Devotion: Children of God

People naturally love their children; find great pleasure in them when they are young; and look to them for emotional support as they grow old. It's always easier to forgive our children than other people's children. People go to great lengths to provide for their children. As much as we love our children, God loves His children more than we love our children. He loves His children so much that He gave His Son begotten from eternity, to share in our humanity and die on the cross, so that through faith and the washing of baptism, we would receive adoption as daughters and sons.

God loves us so much that even when we are hostile to Him in attitude and separated from Him in spirit, He reaches out to us with the gospel, so we would become His children in the fullest sense. In the letter to the Romans St. Paul said, "*God demonstrates His own love for us in this: That while we were sinners Christ died for us.*" Christ died for us that by will of God working through the word and by the washing of baptism, we would become His children!

God loves children and He can never have enough daughters and sons in His house. He gave His only begotten Son into the world in the hope that through Him every man, woman and child in the whole wide world would become His children. Because He is God, He can love the whole world in general and each one of us in particular; in an intimate and personal way. What do we have to do to become children of God? The answer is simply faith. As St. Paul said, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.*" It's as simple as that! All who receive Jesus into their hearts as Saviour, become the children of God

Hymn: Children of the Heavenly Father CCLI #453681
Children of the heav'nly Father, Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven, Such a refuge e'er was given;

God His own doth tend and nourish, In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them, In His mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever, From the Lord His children sever,
Unto them his grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God his children n'er forsaketh,
His the loving purpose solely, To preserve them pure and holy.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son, begotten from eternity, into the world to be our Saviour that through Him, we too would become your children. You gave Him as the Lamb who took away the sin of the world, through the blood He shed on the cross. Through the washing of His blood in baptism and by faith in His name, you have given us the divine adoption as daughters and sons. Bless us to live with one another as sisters and brothers and to bring honour to your name by the expression of our love. Empower and impel us by your Spirit, to call others to Christ that through faith in Jesus and the washing of the word in baptism, they too may become your children. In Jesus' 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

1 John 3:1

"Behold, what love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God; and so we are."

