

Devotion for the Third Friday of Easter

Psalm 107:1-16

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.

Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains, for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High.

So He subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and He saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, for He breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.

*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 1:1-2:16 *Laws for sacrifice*

New Testament Reading: John 11:1-57 *Jesus, resurrection and the life*

Do You Believe this?

Think for a moment about some of the important questions you have been asked. How did you feel? Were you nervous? Did answer confidently and gladly, or were you filled with fear and answer with trepidation? We are asked many important questions during the courses of our lives, but there is no question more important than the question Jesus asked Martha in our gospel when He said, “*Do you believe this?*” Believe what? Well nothing less than that Jesus was the Son of God, come into the world with power to give eternal life to those who believe! Jesus said, “*I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet he shall live and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.*”

Then He looked into Martha’s eyes and asked her, “*Do you believe this?*” Although directed at Martha in our gospel this is a question Jesus asks each of us, “*Do you believe this?*” He asked at our baptism and again whenever we remember our sins and return to our baptism in repentance. He asked at our confirmation, when we made public confession of our faith in Him. He asks again, whenever we have the opportunity to share our faith and give an account of the hope we have in Him. He asks when we come to His table to receive the blessing of forgiveness and the benefits of the Holy Spirit in communion. “*Do you believe this?*”

We are asked many questions in the course of a day and in the course of our lives, but the question Jesus asks is the most important for it has eternal implications. Whoever believes He is who He says, receives what He says He gives, eternal life! There is no greater question and no greater gift of the Spirit than the gift of faith and the blessing of confessing Christ as Saviour and Lord and saying with Martha, “*Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who is coming into the world.*” Because, whoever believes in Him has eternal life and He will raise us up on the Last Day.

“OH , HOW I LOVE JESUS!” CCLI #453681

**There is a name I love to hear; I love to sing its worth.
It sounds like music in my ear, The Sweetest Name on earth.**

Chorus

**Oh, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!**

**It tells me of a Saviour’s love, who died to set me free.
It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner’s perfect plea. Chorus**

**It tells me what my Father hath in store for every day.
And though I tread a dark-some path, yields sunshine all the way. Chorus**

**It tells of One whose loving heart, Can feel my deepest woe,
and in each sorrow bears a part That none can bear below. Chorus**

Prayer

Lord Jesus in your word you show yourself to be the Christ, the Son of God who came into our world for our eternal salvation. You put your words into action by dying for our sin and rising for our forgiveness. Bless us always with faith to believe in you as Saviour and Lord, so that we empowered by your Spirit may join Martha and all the faithful in saying, “Yes Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who is coming into the world. 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

Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope will you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”