

DEVOTION FOR THE FOURTH SATURDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 125

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.
For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!
But to those who turn aside to their crooked ways, the Lord will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

*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 10:1-22 *Moses recounts the Lord's righteousness*

New Testament Reading: Acts 22:1-29 *Paul addresses the people*

“WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE?”

Before Israel's second attempt at entering the Promised Land, Moses recounted the giving of the Law at Mount Horeb (known also as Sinai), Israel's rebellion and the Lord's forgiveness, mediated by him. The Lord gave Israel His holy law as an expression of His righteousness; both so they would know His love and so they would know how to serve Him, in love. All that the Lord required of Israel was that they would receive His love through faith and express their love in faithfulness to Him.

“What does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord?” Israel's relationship with God began with His love. Israel expressed its relationship with the Lord by responding with love. St. John summed it up when he said, *“We love because He first loved us.”*

Our relationship with God begins with love, His love expressed in giving Jesus to be our Saviour. What does the Lord require of us? He simply requires us to believe He loves us and has given Jesus to die for our sins. We walk with the Lord as ancient Israel did, in love. Echoing the words of Deuteronomy, the prophet Micah said, *“And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.”* We receive His love in the kindness of forgiveness for the sake of Jesus. We express our thanks for His love by sharing His kindness in forgiveness towards others.

“THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD” Public Domain)

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie.
In pastures green; He leadeth me. The quiet waters by.**

**My soul He doth restore again. And me to walk doth make.
Within the paths of righteousness, Eén for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou has furnished. In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life, Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore, my dwelling place shall be.**

PRAYER

We thank you Lord for the kindness and faithfulness of your love, expressed for us in Jesus Christ. With you there is forgiveness, therefore you are feared. May our respect for you always be grounded in our awareness of your great faithfulness in providing forgiveness in Christ and continuously blessing us with it, through the ever flowing fountain of grace, in Holy Baptism. Bless us with your Spirit that we may show our love for you by sharing your love in kindness and forgiveness towards others. In Jesus' 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

Micah 7:18-19

“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love.”