

Devotion for Easter 5

Psalm 98

**Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

The Lord has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations.

**He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.

Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing.

With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea resound and all that is in it, the world and all who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.

Let them sing before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

*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*

Acts 10:1-48

The Holy Spirit shows Peter that Jesus is Saviour of all people

Why was Peter hesitant to obey the voice and eat ritually unclean food?

What is the significance of the voice saying “What God has made clean do not call common”?

What is significant about the Holy Spirit falling on Cornelius and the other Gentiles?

John 16:1-33

The work of the Spirit to comfort believers in the world

What does the Holy Spirit do for believers?

How and why is the world opposed to Jesus?

How does Jesus give us peace in tribulation?

God is Love

1 John 4:16

“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

St. John was a dear friend of Jesus as well as being His disciple. He is referred to as “*the beloved disciple.*” For this reason, John sat closest to Jesus during the Last Supper. When the other disciples wanted clarification as to what Jesus said, they asked John. John stood with Jesus’ mother Mary at the foot of the cross. Jesus, knowing that His earthly ministry was about to be fulfilled in death, resurrection and ascension, entrusted His mother to the beloved disciples’ care. He said to her, “*Woman behold your son.*” He said to John, “*Behold, your mother.*” From then until the end of her life, John cared for Mary as his mother. John had a close friendship with Jesus and so his gospel and his letters express Jesus in a warm and intimate manner.

No New Testament writer uses the word ‘love’ more often than John. Jesus is presented in loving images as the Good Shepherd, the Light of the world, the Gate by which the sheep enter the presence of the heavenly Father. John records Jesus’ words, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have eternal life.*” In His first letter John says “*God is love.*” God’s love finds its fullest expression in Jesus, given to bear the sin of the world, given that all who receive Him would have forgiveness and eternal life.

Because God is love, Jesus’ commandment is that we love one another. God has made us His children in Christ Jesus to live in a loving relationship with Him and to live in love with each other; forgiving as He has forgiven us, treating each other with patience and kindness. No one has ever seen God in His divine essence, but we do see Him in the love we have for one another, in the faith and fellowship we share in Christ Jesus. We see God’s love most clearly in Jesus and the sacrifice of His cross. John writes, “*In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and not only for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world.*”

God is love in essence and in action. We live in the essence of God’s love by expressing His love in our actions. Even as God testifies to His love through the witness of the water of baptism and the blood of the cross, so we

testify to God's love through the words of our lips and the actions of our lives; calling other people to faith, so that they too may receive God's love and the salvation offered to all people through faith in Jesus' Name. Amen

This is My Commandment CCLI: #453681

**This is my commandment that you love one another that your joy may be full.
That your joy may be full. That your joy may be full.**

This is my commandment that you love one another that your joy may be full.

**This is my commandment that you trust one another that your joy may be full.
That your joy may be full. That your joy may be full.**

This is my commandment that you trust one another that your joy may be full.

**This is my commandment that you serve one another that your joy may be full.
That your joy may be full. That your joy may be full.**

This is my commandment that you serve one another that your joy may be full.

**This is my commandment that you love one another that your joy may be full.
That your joy may be full. That your joy may be full.**

This is my commandment that you love one another that your joy may be full.

Prayer

Most gracious God in heaven, St. John said that you are love. Love is more than an attribute of your Being, it is the essence of your Being as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In love you created all things and in love you provide for the needs of every living being. You are love and so when the first people turned to sin, you turned to them in forgiveness and promised to send their descendants a Redeemer. You gave Jesus to redeem us from sin and death, by becoming human so that as one of us He would live and die for our redemption. Your love was for ancient Israel and for all people. Through Israel you gave Jesus, who sent the apostles to share the gospel of love and forgiveness with all people. We thank you that our hearts have been opened to your love in Christ Jesus. Open the hearts of many others so they too may know you as love for the sake of Jesus the Saviour. In His 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

1 John 4:11-12

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us."

Bible Knowledge Quiz

How did the prophet Elijah depart this world?

What did the prophet Elisha do when an axe head fell in the Jordan River?

How did the prophet Elisha purify a batch of poisoned stew?

Answers to last week's Quiz

Elijah. (1 Kings 17:1 James 5:17)

Elisha. (2 Kings 3:15)

King Saul. (1 Samuel 16:23)