

DEVOTION FOR THE SECOND FRIDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 119:113-120

I hate double minded men, but I love your law.

You are my refuge and my shield, I have put my hope in your word.

Away from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commands of my God!

Sustain me according to your promise, and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed.

Uphold me, and I will be delivered; I will always have regard for your decrees.

You reject all who stray from your decrees, for their deceitfulness is in vain.

All the wicked of the earth are like dross; therefore I love your statutes.

My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws.

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: Numbers 33:1-56 *Stages of Israel's journey*

New Testament Reading: Acts 11:1-30 *Peter's report to the Jerusalem church*

“THE SAVIOUR OF ALL”

When Peter returned to Jerusalem after evangelizing and baptizing a Roman centurion and his household, he was called before the church to give an account. Rather than giving a simple description, he was answering a charge. He was accused of violating the ceremonial law that forbid Jews to have close contact with gentiles. They said, “*You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.*” Not only did he eat with them, he shared the gospel with them and baptized them. They were upset and wanted to know by what authority he had done this!

Peter hadn't done this on his own initiative. He told how he had first seen a vision and heard a voice that told him, not to call common what God had made clean. He told how the Spirit said he would receive visitors and an invitation to visit a centurion and that he should go. All that was fine, but one man's vision is another man's dream. The devout Jews in Jerusalem were only convinced that this was from God, when Peter related how the Gentiles had received the same manifestation of the Holy Spirit, as the Jewish believers had on Pentecost Sunday.

The Holy Spirit manifested His presence in a special way for Jews on Pentecost, to show that this was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus. The Holy Spirit manifested His presence in a special way on Samaritans and Gentiles, to show the Jewish believers that the gospel of salvation in Jesus' Name was for all people. In our world of racial tensions and deep divisions, we also need to be reminded that the gospel is for all people; that Jesus is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe.

“CREATOR SPIRIT, BY WHOSE AID” (Public Domain)

**Creator Spirit, by whose aid, the world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit every humble mind; Come pour your joys on humankind;
From sin and sorrow set us free; May we your living temples be.**

**O Source of uncreated light, the bearer of God's gracious might,
Thrice holy fount, thrice holy fire, our hearts with heavenly love inspire.
Your sacred, healing message bring, to sanctify us as we sing.**

**Giver of grace, descend from high; your sevenfold gifts to us supply.
Help us eternal truths receive and practice all that we believe.
Give us yourself that we may see, the glory of the Trinity.**

**Immortal honour, endless fame, attend the almighty Father's name.
The Saviour Son be glorified, who for all humankind has died;
To you, O Paraclete, we raise, unending songs of thanks and praise.**

PRAYER

Holy Spirit you give us grace, by opening our hearts to faith and our minds to understand the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. We praise you and give thanks for your work in our hearts and in the hearts of all believers. We thank you for our incorporation and inclusion in the body of Christ, through faith and by the sealing of Holy Baptism. You manifest your presence in the life of the church and in the lives of each member through the gift of faith and individual gifts of service. We thank you for your gifts and blessings, outward manifestations of the faith that is within. Empower and encourage us through your gifts that we may share the blessing of salvation through Jesus with 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

3 John 14

“Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Great the friends, every one of them.”