

Devotion for the Fourth Saturday of Easter

Psalm 36:5-10

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O Lord, you preserve both man and beast.

How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.

*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 19:1-18 *You shall be holy as the Lord is holy*

New Testament Reading: John 18:1-40 *Jesus arrested and condemned*

The Faithful One

Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray Him. They all questioned themselves asking, “*Is it I Lord?*” Jesus told the disciples that before the night was over they would all forsake Him. They all promised they would never abandon Him. Peter swore he would die with Him if necessary. Jesus said before the rooster crowed twice, Peter would deny Him three times. When the soldiers came, Jesus offered Himself for arrest and interceded for the disciple’s release. He said, “*I told you I am He. So if you seek me, let these men go.*” Even though He knew in advance they would all forsake Him and that Peter would deny Him, He stood up for them and secured their release. He is faithful! His faithfulness is not a response to our faithfulness, or in any way based upon it. Paul writes in 2 Timothy, “*If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.*” He is faithful, because He is faithful!

Because He is faithful, He stood trial in the house of the high priest and suffered all manner of injury, insult and disgrace. Because He is faithful, He did not condemn Peter when he denied Him three times, in the courtyard of the high priest’s home. Because He is faithful, He allowed Himself to be taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor and be subject to more ill treatment and disgrace. Because He is faithful, He who was the holy Son of God in His divinity and without sin in His humanity, allowed Himself to be exchanged for a murderer and thief. He is faithful, because He is faithful! He is faithful to us, because He loves us. He loves us even when we are unfaithful to Him. He loves us, even though He knows in advance our many sins and every time we will disgrace His name with our actions. Jesus told the Roman governor, “*I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth.*” The truth is, He is the faithful One! He said, “*Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.*” We listen to His voice. He loves us! He is faithful to forgive us!

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS” CCLI #453681

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above.
Join with all nature in manifold witness, To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Refrain**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain**

Prayer

Lord Jesus, great is your faithfulness. In loving kindness you daily and constantly forgive our sins, cleanse us of unrighteousness, lead and guide us in paths of righteousness. When we stray you lead us back. When we lose our way, you seek to save the lost. Bless us always with your grace and the encouragement and empowerment of the Holy Spirit that we may respond with faithfulness to your great love. In your 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

John 15:16

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, He may give it to you.”

