

Devotion for the Second Thursday of Easter

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise,
because of your enemies to silence the foe and the avenger.

**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place.**

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the work of your hands; you put everything under his feet.

**All flocks and herds and the beasts of the fields, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.**

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*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: Exodus 25:1-22 *The mercy seat*

New Testament Reading: John 4:1-54 *Jesus reveals Himself to the Samaritans*

Devotion: The Water of Eternal Life

In our gospel Jesus speaks to a woman who had come to do a task that had to be done daily, she went to the well to draw water. How many of you had to draw water then haul it a distance to water animals and refresh the members of your house? Probably none of us under the age of 60! Water is a necessity for physical life. We need water to live. In the days before running water, people had to run to get water, no matter how far away it was, or how deep it was in the ground. Without water we will die.

Even as we need water for physical life, Jesus says we need water for spiritual life. We need living water. Living water could be understood as the ritual water the Jews and Samaritans, used before worshipping in their respective temples. It could be understood as water that gives hydration and preserves physical life as opposed to brackish, salty or poisonous water. But Jesus is speaking of something that will enliven the human spirit in relation to God and in this sustain life not just for time, but for eternity. God is the fountain and source of life. The ultimate key to life is not water, but God. God uses water to create and sustain life, but God himself is the fountain of life.

Jesus offers living water which a person may drink and not thirst again. Even as cool water on a hot day refreshes our bodies, Jesus refreshes our spirits and slakes our deepest thirst for God's righteousness. Jesus is the living water for He is the source of or relationship with God, who is the fountain of life. Jesus refreshes our souls with the forgiveness of sin and peace with God. He establishes us in a relationship of peace with His Heavenly Father that we may have life in time and have it to the fullest in eternity. To all who feel their spiritual thirst he calls "*Come drink freely of the water of eternal life.*"

Hymn: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Public Domain)

Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory, fills my heart with joy and love.

Teach me ever to adore Thee; may I still Thy goodness prove.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face.

Clothed then in the blood-washed linen. How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!

Come, my Lord, no longer tarry. Take my ransomed soul away.

Send Thine angels soon to carry me to realms of endless day.

Prayer

Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount you said, “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*” Bless us always with a spiritual thirst and hunger, so that we may constantly come to you for spiritual nourishment and refreshment. May your water and your nourishment never be loathsome to our souls, but rather be our deepest longing and most pressing need. Refresh us in your grace and nourish us in your forgiveness. Keep us to the day when our hunger and thirst for righteousness is fully met in your heavenly kingdom. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

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

Revelation 22:17

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”

