

Devotion for the Third Wednesday of Easter

Psalm 34:9-22

Fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing.

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Whoever of you loves life and desires to see good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry.

The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all.

He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

The Lord redeems His servants; no one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned.

*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 34:29-35:29 *God meets with Moses*

New Testament Reading: John 9:1-41 *Sight and blindness*

Devotion: Eyes to See

Sight and blindness are powerful metaphors used in scripture to describe the state of human beings in relation to God. The scriptures teach that since the fall into sin, all human beings are blind to God in spirit. Although we can and should sense the existence of God through the natural world, we are unable to understand and appreciate the mind of God. In writing to the Corinthians St. Paul said: *“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”* This is to say that without the illumination of the Holy Spirit the things that God says in scripture and the way He appears to act in the world, seem foolish. This means that unless God gives us eyes to see, we cannot perceive the richness of His love in Jesus Christ. And so in writing to the Corinthians, St. Paul spoke of the cross, the highest expression of God’s love, as foolishness to those who are perishing, but as the power of God to those who are being saved.

In this Gospel Jesus showed His power to give sight to the spiritually blind, by giving sight to a man who was blind from birth. It was no accident that Jesus chose to give physical sight to a man who was blind from birth. This illustrates the spiritual blindness that afflicts all people from birth and even before—from the moment we are conceived. Jesus first gave sight to this man in a lesser manner, in his flesh, that He might bless him with the most important sight of all, the ability to see and worship Him as Saviour and Lord.

We call what Jesus did for this man’s eyes a miracle. In our language a miracle is something so incredible that it defies rational explanation. Miracle in our parlance is a synonym for impossible. But that miracle isn’t the half of it. The most miraculous, astounding and incredible thing that Jesus did for this man, something beyond any human power, was that He gave him spiritual eyes to see and believe in Him as Saviour. Praise be to God who through the word and by the working of the Holy Spirit, has blessed us with eyes to see and believe in Jesus as Saviour and to worship Him as Lord.

Hymn: "O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES" (Public Domain)
Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honours of your name.

The name of Jesus calms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinners ears, Brings life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin; He sets the prisoners free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

Look to the Lord who did atone, For sin O fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

See all our sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb has made us whole.
His soul was once an offering made, For every human soul.

To God all glory, praise and love, Be now and ever giv'n.
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heaven.

Prayer

Dearest Jesus, you have opened our eyes to see you as Saviour and in your face we see the love of God shining in forgiveness, love and peace. Open our eyes to see you in your word, in the promise of our baptism, in the grace of the sacrament and in our interactions with other believers. Bless us with your Spirit that we may live and speak in such a way that others would see you as their Saviour. In your Name. 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

Psalm 72:17

"May His name endure forever, His fame continue as long as the sun!
May people be blessed in Him, all nations call Him blessed!