

DEVOTION FOR THE SEVENTH MONDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 119:1-8

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in His ways.

You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes.

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.

I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

*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 13:1-33 *Israel arrives at Canaan, but fears*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 10:1-39 *Holding fast our confession*

“DRAW NEAR TO GOD IN CHRIST”

The author of Hebrews concern was that his readers—first generation Jewish Christians—were being tempted to abandon their faith and seek to draw near to God through the temple, instead drawing near to God through Christ Jesus. He goes to great lengths to show how Christ fulfilled the function of the temple and the work of the priests. We will not be tempted to draw near to God in the same way. The temple is gone and the priestly service has been in hiatus for almost two thousand years. But this letter speaks to us today. There are always things that lead us away from Christ, in the interest of drawing us near to God. But there is only one way into God’s presence; through Jesus whose blood washes away our sins. Jesus makes us worthy to stand in the presence of God. Jesus said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* In Him we have access to the Father in peace.

There is always the temptation to take our closeness with God for granted, become complacent in our faith and move away from God. In the book of Revelation, Jesus expressed anger at the church in Sardis, because they had fallen asleep in their faith. He said, *“You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up...!”* Closeness with God is a gift of grace, earned by Christ Jesus and given for His sake. It is never something to be treated lightly, or given second place in our lives. The writer of this letter wants us to appreciate the great blessing we have received in Christ Jesus, celebrate it and live in its power each day. He wants us to respond to God’s grace in Christ Jesus, by drawing close to Him in faith. He wants us to live in God’s grace, by sharing our faith with others with words and acts of kindness. He wants us to encourage one another in faith, by gathering together in worship, to pray, praise and give thanks. We draw near to God in Christ Jesus that we might hold fast the confession of our faith and be ready to greet Him when He returns as King of kings, our Saviour and Lord.

“DRAW US TO THEE” (Public Domain)

**Draw us to Thee, for then shall we, walk in Thy steps forever.
And hasten on where Thou art gone, to be with Thee dear Saviour.**

**Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly; Let us depart with gladness.
That we may be forever free from sorrow, grief and sadness.**

**Draw us to Thee; O grant that we, may walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way, lest we should stray and from Thy paths be driven.**

**Draw us to Thee that also we, Thy heavenly bliss inherit.
And ever dwell, where sin and hell, no more can vex our spirit.**

**Draw us to Thee unceasingly, into Thy kingdom take us;
Let us forever, Thy glory share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

PRAYER

God in heaven, we thank you that there is no longer any need for an offering for sin. Christ has made perfect and complete atonement for the sin of the world. We give thanks that your Spirit of grace has opened our minds to believe and our hearts to receive Jesus as Saviour. Bless us to draw near to you in Christ with our prayers, praises and thanksgivings. In all things may we hold fast the confession of our faith, celebrating what we have received from you in Christ Jesus and remembering that you are faithful to keep your promises. 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

Hebrews 10:23

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”