

Devotion for Easter Friday

Psalm 145:1-9

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wonderful works, I will meditate.

They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

*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 18:5-25 *Moses advised by his father in law*

New Testament Reading: John 21:1-25 *Jesus reveals Himself at the sea*

Devotion: Follow Me!

When Jesus began His ministry He came to the men He had chosen to be His disciples and said, “*Follow me!*” After His resurrection, as He prepared to withdraw His visible presence, Jesus again came to the men He had chosen to be His disciples and said, “*Follow me!*” Follow Him they would, each one in the shadow of the cross, sharing in the suffering of the cross, proclaiming the good news of forgiveness and peace with God through the blood of His cross.

Many people followed Jesus and why not? He could feed five thousand with five loaves and two fish. He could heal the sick and even raise the dead. One day Jesus defined what it meant to follow Him. He turned to the crowd behind Him and said, “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny Himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*” Following Jesus means dying to ourselves and living for Jesus. Following Jesus means losing our lives in time that we may have eternal life in Him. No matter what we must give up, suffer or endure in time, those who follow Jesus receive the life that is truly life, in time and for eternity! “*Follow me!*”

Hymn: Jesus, Lead Thou On (Public Domain)

Jesus, lead Thou on, Till our rest is won;

And though the way be cheerless,

We will follow calm and fearless.

Guide us by Thy hand, to our Fatherland.

If the way be drear, if the foe be near,

Let no faithless fears o'er take us;

Let not faith and hope forsake us;

For through many a woe, to our home we go.

When we seek relief from a long felt grief,

When temptations come alluring,

Make us patient and enduring.

Show us that bright shore, where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on, till our rest is won;

Heavenly leader, still direct us,

Still support, console, protect us,

Till we safely stand, in our fatherland.

Prayer

Lord Jesus as you called the disciples to follow you, bless us to hear your voice call us to follow through the voice of the gospel. Bless our hearts with your Holy Spirit to sustain our faith, give it growth and to impel us to follow as your disciples in our daily lives. Bring us through our earthly pilgrimage to that day when we rise in your resurrection to see your face and dwell in the Father's presence forever. 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

Isaiah 35:10

“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”