

Devotion for the Fourth Tuesday of Easter

Psalm 141:1-5

O Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to you.

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

Do not let my heart incline to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their delicacies.

Let a righteous man strike me, it is a kindness;

let him rebuke me, it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.

Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds.

*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 10:1-20 *Aaron's sons dishonour their ministry*

New Testament Reading: John 14:1-57 *Jesus the only way to the Father*

Believe in Me!

Jesus said, "*Believe in God, believe also in me.*" These are familiar verses. We have heard them so often they fall lightly on our ears. We don't realize what an outrageous thing this was to say and how shocking these words must have sounded to the disciple's ears. No prophet of the Lord ever said such a thing, not even Moses of whom the scriptures say God spoke with him, "*as a man speaks with his friend.*" The prophets called the people to believe in God, but Jesus calls us to believe in Him, as God.

Only Jesus could say such a thing, because Jesus is God. John began his gospel saying, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" He is the only mediator between God and human beings, because as God and Man, He has made peace between God and humankind through the blood of the cross. It is through Jesus that we enter into a relation of peace with God. And so Jesus also said, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*"

No one comes to the Father except through Jesus, because Jesus is the only one in whom humanity and divinity are joined in one person. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus, because only Jesus' blood was shed for the sin of the world. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus, because only Jesus was able to make His blood a sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world. Whoever sees Him in faith, sees the Father.

Whoever receives Him through faith, comes to the Father in forgiveness. Whoever comes to the Father through Jesus, lives with the Father in peace, for time and for eternity. Whoever believes in Jesus will never perish, but has eternal life. And that's why we can believe Jesus when He says, "*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.*" When we see Jesus we see God. Because we believe in Jesus, one day we will see God.

"I AM TRUSTING THEE, LORD JESUS" (Public Domain)

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.**

**I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow;
For Thy grace and tender mercy, Trusting now.**

**I am trusting Thee for cleansing, In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy, By Thy blood.**

**I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,
Every day and hour supplying, All my need.**

**I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me, Must prevail.**

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever and for all.**

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the way and the truth and the life. You bring us to the Father in peace through the forgiveness of your cross, received through faith in your name, sealed by the Holy Spirit, in the word and water of baptism. You have the words of eternal life. You speak words of forgiveness, peace and faith. Guide us always by your Holy Spirit through your word. Bless us to see you every day through faith in the promise our baptism, the sacrament of your body and blood and in our fellowship with other believers. Bring us to the day when we see you face to face, in our share of your resurrection to life everlasting. 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

Psalm 115:14-15

“May the Lord give you increase, you and your children!

May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth!”