

DEVOTION FOR THE THIRD THURSDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 119:153-160

Look upon my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten your law.

Defend my cause and redeem me; renew my life according to your promise.

Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek out your decrees.

Your compassion is great, O Lord; renew my life according to your laws.

Many are the foes who persecute me, but I have not turned from your statutes.

I look on the faithless with loathing, for they do not obey your word.

See how I love your precepts; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your love.

*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: Deuteronomy 2:1-37 *The descendants of Lot*

New Testament Reading: Acts 16:1-40 *Macedonia receives the gospel*

“THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING THROUGH THE WORD”

Lydia is described as a worshipper of God. This expression was used by religious Jews to describe Gentile believers, who were not full members of Judaism. Lydia was a Gentile woman who had come to know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; perhaps through her business contacts with Jewish people, who lived throughout the Roman world. She had knowledge of the promised Messiah, but she need to know the Messiah was Jesus.

There weren't enough Jews in Philippi to have a synagogue, perhaps there were none at all. Each Sabbath she went to the river to worship and to pray, with other like-minded Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas were aware of this place of prayer, so they went and told those gathered the good news that Jesus is the Christ. They spoke the word of the gospel; the good news that God gives forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe in Jesus' name and receive baptism into His death and resurrection. As they spoke the Holy Spirit opened Lydia's ears to listen and opened her heart to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Saviour of the world.

Faith is created and sustained by the Holy Spirit, working through the word. The word shows us we should put our faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to believe in Jesus as our Saviour. The word is essential to faith from beginning to its fulfillment in eternal life. We continue in the word, so the Holy Spirit can deepen our faith in Christ Jesus. The word is nourishment for the human spirit. Even as we need food and drink for life in our flesh, we need the nourishment and refreshment of God's word to live in faith in relationship with God.

“COME HOLY GHOST, GOD AND LORD” (CCLI #453681)

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord, with all your graces now outpoured

On each believers mind and heart; your fervent love to them impart.

Lord by the brightness of your light, in holy faith your Church unite;

From every land and every tongue, this to your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Light, guide divine, now cause the word of life to shine.

Teach us to know our God aright and call Him Father with delight.

From every error keep us free; let none but Christ our master be.

That we in living faith abide, In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come Holy Fire, comfort true, grant us the will, your work to do.

And in your service to abide; let trials turn us not aside.

Lord, by your power prepare each heart, and to our weakness strength impart.

That bravely here we may contend, through life and death to you, our Lord ascend.

Alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you enter our hearts through the hearing of the gospel and the washing our regeneration in Holy Baptism. Open the hearts of many more to pay attention to the word, may they heed the gospel call and receive Christ as Saviour and follow Him as Lord. 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

Luke 2:29-32

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”