

DEVOTION FOR THE FIFTH FRIDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

*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 15:1-23 *The Sabbath year*

New Testament Reading: Acts 27:1-44 *Paul's perilous journey*

“THE TROUBLES OF PAUL”

Paul could have written a book about the perils of travel, especially sea travel. In our reading from Acts, he is a prisoner on board a ship that is caught in a terrible storm. The storm was so bad that Luke says, the sailors were without food for fourteen days. In the end, the ship ran aground on a sand bar and Paul and the others had to swim for their lives. This wasn't Paul's only bad experience with the sea and travel. In Second Corinthians he relates that he was in three ship wrecks and spent a day and a night adrift at sea. A person would think twice before going on a cruise with him!

Paul was on a mission from the Lord. Jesus had told him that he would bear witness to Him in Rome. But the Lord didn't make it easy. Before Paul got to Rome he had to endure a two year imprisonment in Caesarea, three trials and a perilous sea voyage right at the end of the marine travel season, which resulted in a shipwreck. At least Paul had the consolation of knowing for a certainty that he was doing the Lord's will. But, why did the Lord make things so hard for Paul, especially since he was doing the Lord's will?

I suppose we all wonder at times, why life is so difficult, when we are doing the Lord's will. One of the reasons in Paul's life was so that the Lord would show him that everything happens by His surpassing power. In order to illustrate that Paul had to face what seemed insurmountable problems, like imprisonment and shipwreck. Through hardship and difficulty, Paul realized that he could do all things, not of himself, but through Christ who strengthened him. As we consider Paul's life, his faith, his service to the Lord and the hardships he experienced, we remember that in our lives Christ also makes His power perfect in weakness and that we too can do all things through Him who gives us strength!

“THY LOVING KINDNESS” (CCLI # 453681)

**Thy loving kindness, is better than life. Thy loving kindness, is better than life.
My lips shall praise thee, thus shall I bless thee. I will lift up my hands unto the Lord.**

**I lift my hands up, unto the Lord. I lift my hands up, unto the Lord.
My lips shall praise thee, thus shall I bless thee. I will lift up my hands unto the Lord.**

**I lift my heart up, unto the Lord. I lift my heart up, unto the Lord.
My lips shall praise thee, thus shall I bless thee. I will lift up my hands unto the Lord.**

**I lift my voice up, unto the Lord. I lift my voice up, unto the Lord.
My lips shall praise thee, thus shall I bless thee. I will lift up my hands unto the Lord.**

PRAYER

Lord Jesus as you brought the apostle Paul through many trials and perils to testify to you in Rome, assure us that you are with us in our trials and that nothing can separate us from your love. Bless us to know that you are with us in all things, so that even in hardship and suffering, we may see your hand at work for our eternal good. In your name we pray. 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

2 Corinthians 12:9

“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak then I am strong.”

d