

DEVOTION FOR THE TWELFTH WEEK OF PENTECOST

PSALM 142

I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.

I pour out my complaint before him; before him I tell my trouble.

When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who know my way.

In the path where I walk men have hidden a snare for me.

Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me.

I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.

I cry to you, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need.

Rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.

Set me free from my prison that I may praise your name.

Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to 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*

Deuteronomy 23:1-25 Laws of assembly and conduct

Questions for reflection

Why could certain people not enter the Lord's assembly?

Why was cleanliness in the camp important?

What would the Lord if the people lent money without interest?

Romans 7:1-25 Dead to the law, alive in Christ

Questions for reflection

When did we die to the law and become alive in Christ? (Rom 6:4)

Although dead to the law, what does the law always show us?

Sin prevents us from doing good, what empowers us to do good?

"WANTING TO SERVE"

Have you ever had to do something you didn't want to do, but had no choice; either because you would lose your job, or you were under a legal obligation? Recording artists sometimes reach an impasse with their record label and want out. But before they get out of their contract, they are legally obligated to provide the record company with one more recording. Contractual obligation albums don't often get nominated for awards. The artists are not performing from the heart or giving their best. They are fulfilling an unwanted obligation.

There is a saying, "God loves a cheerful giver." It comes from 2 Corinthians 9:7 and refers to the attitude of a person who makes an offering or gives an act of service, because she or he wants to, out of love for God. making an offering, or performing some act of service out of love for God. The law tells us what we have to do, love God and our neighbour. The gospel empowers is to love and makes want to love God with our whole heart and love our neighbour as ourselves. We love God because He loves us. We serve Him, because He has lovingly served us with forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ our Saviour.

“PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS” (CCLI #453681)

**Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord...And where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

**Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light...And where there's sadness, ever joy.**

Bridge

**Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek, so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive...And dying that we're born to eternal life.
And dying that we're born to eternal life.**

PRAYER

Lord Jesus you have released us from the control of sin through your blood shed for our forgiveness. In Holy Baptism you have given us the new birth of the Spirit and given your Holy Spirit to live within us. The law that once condemned, now reminds us of our need for your grace and frames the promise of your forgiveness. Empower us by your Spirit to seek to serve you in love according to the guidance of your law. Raise us up when we fall. Grant that we may despair of your grace, but always live in your love. In your 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

Psalm 106:43-45

“Many times He delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes and were brought low through their iniquity. Nevertheless, He looked upon their distress, when He heard their cry. For their sake He remembered His covenant, and relented according to His steadfast love.”