

Devotion for the Third Tuesday of Easter

Psalm 34:1-10

I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.

My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.

Fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing.

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

*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 34:1-28 *Covenant Reaffirmed*

New Testament Reading: John 8:1-59 *Jesus, the light and true God*

Devotion: If The Son Sets You Free, You will be Free Indeed

In John chapter eight Jesus said, *“If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed.”* Jesus came to free us from the controlling power of sin in life and to free us from sin’s condemnation in eternal death. In the book of Genesis, Cain struggled with sin, as he felt anger at his brother Abel. God said, *“Sin is crouching at your door its desire is for you, but you must master it.”* Because of his sinful condition, Cain could not master sin. Sin was his master and he committed murder against his brother. Cain was overcome by sin, because like everyone conceived and born into the world since the sin of his parents, he was in bondage to sin. Because of the sinful nature, sin is the master and humans are its slaves. Jesus came to set us free from sin, so that God would be our master and we would be servants of righteousness.

Jesus sets us free from the control of sin, when, through the word and by the working of the Holy Spirit, He creates a new nature in our souls; a nature that loves God and seeks to submit itself to Him and live according to His will. The sinful nature still remains, but in the heart of every believer there also lives a new nature, created by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit that can resist sin and triumph over temptation. Jesus sets us free from the control of sin through faith in His Name, by the forgiveness of sin and through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. With every temptation, He gives grace. Every time we fall, He lifts us up in forgiveness. The Son has set us free. We are free indeed!

Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Public Domain)

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry, Ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—

All because we do not carry, Ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev-'ry weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Saviour, still our refuge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a solace there.

Prayer

Lord Jesus you came that we would be set free from the control of sin and the condemnation of eternal death. You have opened our hearts to the Holy Spirit through the word and have washed us of our sins in the waters of Holy Baptism. Your Holy Spirit makes His dwelling within us and makes our bodies His holy temples. You have set us free! Bless us each day to live in the freedom of your will. Empower us to resist sin, so it may not be our master. You are our Master. Bless us with repentance when we fall. Raise us in forgiveness each day, until that day you raise us in your resurrection to everlasting life. 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 40:31

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up on wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”