

Devotion for the Second Friday of Easter

Psalm 92:1-8

**It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.**

To the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.

For you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord; I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

How great are your works, O Lord, how profound your thoughts!

**The senseless man does not know, fools do not understand, that though the wicked spring
up like grass and all evil doers flourish, they will be forever destroyed.**

But you, O Lord, are exalted forever.

*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 31:1-18 *The Sabbath*

New Testament Reading: John 5:1-47 *Jesus authority over the Sabbath*

Devotion: Sabbath Rest

The Sabbath was a day of rest. The word “Sabbath” means both the number “seven” and “rest.” The seventh day was the day the Lord rested from His work creating the heavens, the earth and all that is in them. Israel was commanded to rest on the seventh day so they would remember the Lord their God, consider and give thanks for His many benefits; study and reflect upon His Holy Word. People in the ancient world worked each day of the week. Nature was capricious and people couldn’t afford to rest and miss a day of work. God called Israel to rest on the seventh day, as an act of faith. Israel rested, trusting God would provide all that was necessary to meet their daily needs.

Jesus offended the religious leaders of His day by doing things which they felt violated the rest of the Sabbath. He made a point of healing the sick on the Sabbath. He did this because they had taken a day of rest and worship and turned it into something so burdensome that people were probably glad it was over and they could go back to work. Man was not made for the Sabbath, rather the Sabbath had been made for men, women and children to rest a day in God’s peace. Jesus claimed authority over the Sabbath as the Son of God. He is the rest to which the observance of the Sabbath pointed. In Him we have the peace of a good conscience through the forgiveness of sin. In Him and through the sacrifice of His cross we have peace with God. He has done all the work necessary for our salvation. He is our rest because in Him we have peace. In Him and for His sake, God provides all that is necessary for our needs to eternal life.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee CCLI #453681

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;

Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Hail Thee as the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,

Stars and angels sing around Thee, Centre of unbroken praise;

Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well spring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine:
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy Divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music lifts us sun-ward, in the triumph song of life.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are our Sabbath rest. We rest in your peace, confident that you have power over the earth and authority over all that is in it. We give you thanks for the forgiveness of sin, the Holy Spirit to dwell within us and among us. We pray that you bless us with courage to face the challenges of our lives and confidence to live by faith each day. Bless us with your peace. Keep us in your peace. Bring us to rest fully in your peace at your return and our share in your resurrection to everlasting life. 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

Ephesians 6:23

“Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.”