

## Devotion for Easter 1

### Psalm 148

**Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights above.**

Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him all His heavenly hosts.

**Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars.**

Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

**Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.**

He set them in place for ever and ever; He gave a decree that will never pass away.

**Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths;** Lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do His bidding.

You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds.

**Kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,  
young men and maidens, old men and children.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted;

His splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

**He has raised up for His people a horn, the praise of all His saints, of Israel, the people close to His heart.**

**Praise the Lord.**

*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*

### 1 John 1:1-2:6

*Christ our advocate with the Father*

On what does John base the authority of his writing?

What is the basis of our fellowship with each other?

Why is it important to know Christ atoned for all sins, not just those who believe?

### John 20:1-31

*The Resurrection of our Lord*

Why did Jesus discourage Mary from clinging to Him?

How did the disciples know the grave had not been robbed?

Why are those who believe without seeing blessed?

### Believing is Seeing

Thomas wanted proof that Jesus had risen from the dead. For him, seeing was believing. Actually, he had it backwards. Believing is seeing. When we take the gospel to heart and believe what is written, we see that Jesus is risen from the dead. If we need proof of Jesus' resurrection, all we have to do is reflect upon the change in the disciples' disposition after Jesus' resurrection, the suffering they endured for the sake of their testimony and the manner in which their earthly service was concluded; for except John, all including Thomas, died violent deaths because of their faith and testimony to salvation through faith in His Name.

The evening of Easter Sunday found the disciples hiding behind locked doors, fearful of arrest by the Jewish authorities. Two months later these timid, unbelieving, fearful men were standing in the courts of the temple, boldly telling everyone within earshot that Jesus is the Messiah, calling people to faith and saying that there is no other name given under heaven by which we are saved and that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!

They were arrested, beaten and warned not to preach salvation in Jesus' Name. Their faith was so firm that they refused to back down, even under the threat of death. They said, "*We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Saviour to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*" They praised God and rejoiced that "*they were counted worthy to suffer disgrace for the Name.*" What a difference Jesus' resurrection made in their lives! That difference gives us reason to accept their words and with them believe that Jesus is indeed the Christ,

the Son of God. When we believe the words of witness in scripture we see Jesus at work in the world and alive in our hearts!

### **Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (Public Domain)**

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of Praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
Praise him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia! Everything that has breath. Alleluia!**

### **Prayer**

**Dearest Lord Jesus we offer you our highest praise and deepest thanksgiving, as we contemplate your dying for our sins and your resurrection for our justification. On the cross, you sacrificed your life in love for the world. On the third day, you rose in testimony that our sins are forgiven and to give assurance that all who believe and receive baptism into your death and resurrection will one day share in your resurrection to a new and eternal life in your kingdom. Bless us with your Holy Spirit this Easter season, as we celebrate your victory and rejoice in our promised share of your resurrection. 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**

**2 Peter 3:18**

***“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen”***

### **Bible Knowledge Quiz**

Over how many days did Jesus appear to the disciples after His resurrection?

Which disciples were fishing when Jesus came to them on the Sea of Galilee after His resurrection?

Mary Magdalene was a devoted disciple. Jesus had released her from demonic possession. How many evil spirits did He cast out of her?

### **Answers to Last Week's Quiz**

Simon of Cyrene (Mark 15:21).

Malchus (John 18:10-11).

Pontius Pilate's wife (Matthew 27:19).