

Devotion for the Second Saturday in Easter

Psalm 68:1-10

God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!

As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so
the wicked shall perish before God!

But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up a song to Him who rides through the deserts;
His name is the Lord; exult before Him!

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in His holy habitation.

God settles the solitary in a home; He leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

The earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad; you restored your inheritance as it languished;

Your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

*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 32:1-35 *Golden Calf*

New Testament Reading: John 6:1-71 *The Bread of Life*

Devotion: Bread of Life

The two most basic physical needs are food and water. Have you ever been hungry and thirsty? Lack of food and drink will cause short term grumpiness and irritability! If you have ever been on a car trip with hungry children, you know what I mean. Over an extended period of time hunger and thirst can affect the growth and development of the human body and impact brain function. Long term deprivation of food and drink will cause physical weakness, mental confusion and ultimately death. We all need food and water, but as important as food and drink are for our bodies, there is a bread and water that are more important for our souls; and that is the spiritual nourishment and refreshment Jesus gives through faith in His name; forgiveness of sin, peace with God and the promise resurrection to life everlasting.

The bread and water of the earth can sustain life only for a relatively short period of time. A time will come when the bread and water of the earth will no longer sustain our lives in the world. Jesus is the living bread from heaven which a person may eat and live forever. Jesus slakes our thirst for righteousness in the water of baptism. He nourishes our faith in forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, through the bread and wine of Holy Communion. As He said to the people who sought bread in the gospel of John, so He says to us, "*I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*"

Hymn: Let Us Break Bread Together CCLI #453681

Let us break bread together on our knees.

Let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us bow round the altar on our knees.

Let us bow round the altar on our knees.

When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us bless one another on our knees.

Let us bless one another on our knees.

When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, living bread from heaven, nourish our spirits with your grace that we may trust more fully each passing day. Satisfy our needs of body and spirit by your all powerful word. Nourish our faith and give it growth until it reaches its fullness in life everlasting. 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

Psalm 59:17

“O my strength, I will sing praises to you, for you,
O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.”