



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CAMEROON

Friday, May 22, 2020

PCC ONLINE

DAILY

DEVOTIONAL

A production by the Secretary, Committee of the
Ministry as a follow up to the 40 days Lent Devotion

Salutation

Opening

My dear Brothers and Sisters, the night is gone, the day has come. Let us keep awake and be sober and lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

O Lord, open our lips and let our mouths proclaim your praise. O God make speed to save us, O Lord make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, it's now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(BODS Pew Edition Pg. 142)

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, thank you, for the triumph of yesterday, for the joy of this new day and for the hope of tomorrow. Enlighten our mind with your truth, inflame our hearts with your love, inspire our will with courage, enrich our lives with service, pardon what we have been, sanctify what we are and order what we shall be. Through Christ we pray. Amen

Today's Psalm: 16: 8-11

“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand....

Glory be to the Father...

Hymn: CH 131, CHB 164 (Use the tune of CH 105)

1. The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.

2. The highest place that heaven affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of Kings, and Lord of lords,
And heaven's eternal Light.

3. The joy of all who dwell above,
The joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love,
And grants His Name to know.

4. To them the Cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is given,
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heaven.

5. They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The mystery of His love.

6. The Cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him,
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

Amen

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you exalted your holy Son to your right hand and crowned him with eternal glory. We worship and adore you in the fellowship of your redeemed and ascribe to you and to the Lamb together with the Holy Spirit, blessing and honour, glory and power forever and ever. Amen. (BODS, Vol. 1, pg. 238)

Meditation

Text: Luke 24: 50-53

“When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.”

Theme: “Joyful Hearts”

Jesus’ ascension is proof that He has conquered every enemy and that He reigns supremely *“far above all”* (Eph. 1:18-23). The ascension was the appropriate bloom and culmination of the resurrection.

In heaven now, our Lord ministers as our eternal High Priest (Heb. 7:25) and our Advocate (1 Jn. 2:1). As High Priest, He gives us the grace we need to face testing and temptation (Heb. 4:14-16); and if we fail, as Advocate He forgives and restores us when we confess our sins (1 John 1:6-10). As the glorified Head of the

church, Jesus Christ is equipping His people to live for Him and serve Him in this present world (Eph. 4:7-16). Through the Word of God and prayer, He is ministering to us by His Spirit and making us more like Himself. Of course, He is also preparing in heaven a home for His people (Jn. 14:1-6), and one day He will return and take us to be with Him forever. All these should give us joy unspeakable and everlasting because we now have a privileged position before God.

First; as we rejoice on account of our Lord's ascension, we should worship Him with all our

being paying Him divine homage which is so justly due His name. His ascension should lead us unhesitatingly to trust in Him for salvation, encourage us to engage with liveliness in spiritual exercises, raise our thoughts and affections to heaven carrying forward our thoughts to His coming again. We should never think of him as dead, distant or different since though far removed from us as regards His bodily presence, the brotherly tie which unites us to him has not been severed but made stronger and more intimate by the Holy Spirit. This should give confidence to our prayers, leading us to desire and expect great blessings at His

hands.

With all this in mind, let us send our hearts after Him. Secondly, in the absence of our Lord, let us abide closely in the fellowship of His Church. Like the disciples, let us resort to the temple; like the disciples, let us keep together. Let us not be scattered and disunited. Thirdly, this subject should lead us to cherish a cheerful confidence with respect to our entrance into eternity. As Christians, we are not judges or prosecuting attorneys sent to condemn the world. We are witnesses who point to Jesus Christ and tell lost sinners how to be

saved. *"People do not come to Christ at the end of an argument,"* said Vance Havner. *"Simon Peter came to Jesus because Andrew went after him with a testimony."* Witnessing is not something that we do for the Lord; it is something that He does through us, if we are filled with the Holy Spirit. With joyful hearts, we go forth in the authority of His name, in the power of His spirit heralding His Gospel of His grace. Let us be forever thankful for the privilege we enjoy in the exaltation of One who bears our nature and may our joyful testimony lead others to Him. Amen.

Let us pray

Glorious Father, we come to you this day overwhelmed by your holiness and greatness. May the joy we feel knowing what you have accomplished for us help us set our minds on you and the things above. May we each be a blessing and encourage those who may have lost hope for whatever reason. May we be willing to be inconvenienced for the sake of the Gospel and minister to others as though we were ministering to you. May our testimony of how we have experienced you lead others to you.

Lord hear us,... Lord graciously hear us

O God, your blessed Son, our great High Priest, has entered once and for all into the holy place, and lives for ever to intercede for us. Help us, who are sanctified by the offering of his body, that we may walk with faith on the way which he has prepared for us and serve you always, the living God; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns together with you, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Lord hear us... hear graciously hear us.

God of life, you have promised to be with us every day, also in difficult days, like in times like these. Give us clarity in our minds, strength in our work and discernment, rest as we sleep., peace in our minds. Be with those who need help more than we do ourselves. Help us to see what we can offer from your love.

(A word of prayer from the WCC general secretary)

- Personal / Collective prayer needs...

Daily Collect (Summary)

Almighty and everlasting Father, we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into any kind of danger. Order us in all our doings, and guide us to do only what is right in your eyes; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord who lives and reigns together with you O Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen (BODS Pew Edition Pg. 145)

The Lord's prayer

Benediction

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God

(Eph. 3:17-19).

Daily readings

Ex. 32: 30-35

1 Th. 20: 1-12