

Daily Devotions for the Week of April 26-May 2, 2020

Theme of the Week: *He Lives to Restore My Hope*

1 Begin with the **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2 Say the **APOSTLES' CREED**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.*

3 Pray 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.*

4 Read the **LESSON** (see weekly lessons)

5 Say the **SECOND PETITION** and its explanation

*Your kingdom come. **What does this mean?** God's kingdom certainly comes by itself even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us. **How does God's kingdom come?** God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and lead a godly life now on earth and forever in heaven.*

6 Pray the **PRAYER** of the **WEEK**

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

7 Pray for **OURSELVES** and **OTHERS**

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Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! The certain hope of eternal life is founded on the sacrificial death and victorious resurrection of Christ. This ancient hope had been promised in the Garden, carried in his Word through the ages and has now been restored in the resurrection of Christ from the dead. (Note: In the Scriptures, hope is not an uncertain wish but a sure reality that remains unseen.)

Sunday

Luke 24:13-35

It was a hopeless day of puzzlement, sadness and disillusionment for these two disciples. They had heard the reports of an empty tomb. But their understanding of the Scriptures was deficient in that they weren't expecting a resurrection. Jesus comes, identifies their weakness, expounds the Scriptures and restores lost hope.

Monday

Acts 2:14a, 36-47

Peter's audience had lost the long-promised hope of salvation and placed their hope in the repeated performance of human ordinance. Peter's sermon dashes their false hope to pieces. Peter's sermon then restores their hope by proclaiming the crucified and risen Christ.

Tuesday

1 Peter 1:17-21

Peter's first letter is an epistle of hope in the midst of suffering. He wrote to believers persecuted for their faith. He wrote to people whose hope in Christ was being choked by trial, grief and suffering. Hope is restored in the proclamation that we were bought by the blood of Christ.

Wednesday

Psalm 67

There is only one way of salvation and therefore only one sure and certain hope of eternal life. God reveals this salvation and hope of eternal rescue in his gracious and merciful revelation of his blessing.

Thursday

Acts 24:10-21

Paul's trial before the Sanhedrin had erupted into chaos after he confessed his hope in the resurrection. This led to his being on trial before Felix in this lesson. Here he proclaims that those who accused him had abandoned hope in salvation and that he stands firm and secure in the ancient hope of the resurrection.

Friday

Lamentations 3:19-33

Trials are sent by God for a godly purpose and therefore are borne in patience. God does not haphazardly send or allow affliction. He uses it to draw his people back to himself as they despair of their own power and strength. Then he showers his steadfast love and rekindles the joy and hope of salvation.

Saturday

Luke 24:13-35

As you hear this week's Gospel again, consider how our sight, logic, emotions and expectations can lead us to abandon the hope that God gives only in the Scriptures. Rejoice that Jesus comes again and again, explaining all the Scriptures and restoring the hope of eternal life. Christ is risen!