NEVER FURTHER THAN THY CROSS

Hymn Devotion -April 11

Scripture - Colossians 2:13-15

Revelation 4:10

Never further than Thy cross,  
Never higher than Thy feet;  
Here earth’s precious things seem dross,  
Here earth’s bitter things grow sweet.

Gazing thus our sin we see,  
Learn Thy love while gazing thus,  
Sin, which laid the cross on Thee,  
Love, which bore the cross for us.

Here we learn to serve and give,  
And, rejoicing, self deny;  
Here we gather love to live,  
Here we gather faith to die.

Pressing onward as we can,  
Still to this our hearts must tend;  
Where our earliest hopes began,  
There our last aspirings end.

Till amid the hosts of light,  
We in Thee redeemed, complete,  
Through Thy cross made pure and white,  
Cast our crowns before Thy feet.

Elizabeth Rundle Charles (1828-1896)

Until we are among the angels, the hosts of light, where we stand in Christ we’ve been redeemed and now complete. Through the forgiveness of sin - His death on the cross we are made pure and white. We will cast our crowns before His feet.

Look to the cross, sins forgiven, learning through God’s Word, at Jesus feet to live a life of love and service with faith to die knowing we will be raised in Christ to live eternally with Him.

1. How far are we from Christ?

2. How high are we to Christ?

3. Dross means rubbish. What does the precious things of earth become?

4. How do earth’s bitter things become?

5. Verse 2: What do we see or realize?

6. What do we learn while gazing at the cross?

7. What did sin do?

8. What did love do?

9. Verse 3: What do learn at Jesus’ feet?

10. What do we end up doing?

11. What do we gather? (Both phrases)

12. Verse 4: What must we do?

13. What are we tending to?

14. What began early?

15. What is the last to end?

16. Verse 5: Who will we be amid?

17. What will we be?

18. How will we be pure and white?

19. Where will we cast our crowns?

BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

Hymn Devotion -April 12

Scripture – Proverbs 14:26

John 19:30

Beneath the cross of Jesus

I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock

Within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness,

A rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat,

And the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus

Mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One

Who suffered there for me;  
And from my stricken heart with tears

Two wonders I confess;  
The wonders of redeeming love

And my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow

For my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than

The sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by,

To know no gain or loss,  
My sinful self my only shame,

My glory all the cross.

Elizabeth Cecelia Clephane (1830-1869)

If we abide, live in the shadow of the cross, we will not need any other sunshine than the sunshine of His face. We will be able to let the world go by, not as a recluse but not be taken in by the glitter, glamour, wealth and success that the world considers a success. We should feel shame for our sin and if there is any glory in this world for us it is in the Cross of Christ and what He did there for us. Praise God.

1. Reflect on some of the sights and sounds “Beneath the cross of Jesus”:

2. Fain as used here is gladly. What are we saying we would gladly do?

3. What is the mighty rock?

4. What kind of a land?

5. Where is the home?

6. List what we can rest from in the shadow of the cross?

7. Verse 2: In the first complete statement: Whose cross?

What does our “eye” see?

What did He do?

8. Where do the tears come from?

9. What are the “two wonders” that we confess?

10. Verse 3: What are we taking?

11. What is the only sunshine that we are asking for?

12. What are we content to do?

13. What will we let go?

14. What is our only shame?

15. If we claim any glory what is it in?

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Hymn Devotion - April 13

Scripture - John 6:53-55

Acts 2:42

Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)  
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink the cup together on our knees, (on our knees)  
Let us drink the cup together on our knees. (on our knees)  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)  
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Traditional Spiritual

This short, repetitious hymn reminds us of the three most important aspects of being a Christian, humbly remembering the broken body and spilled blood of our Savior and that we should praise God together! If you do not have a church family, seek one that you are comfortable with, be sure to test their teachings so that they are Biblically sound! And just Praise the Lord!

1. What are we breaking?

2. How are we breaking?

3. Where?

4. How do we get to our knees?

5. What are we facing?

6. What are we asking for?

7. Verse 2: What are we drinking?

8. How are we drinking?

9. Where?

10. What are we facing?

11. Who are we asking for mercy?

12. Verse 3: Who are we praising?

13. How are we praising?

14. What do we fall to?

15. The ancient custom of facing east when one worshipped is suggested by doing what?

16. Once more what do we ask for?

ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED?

Hymn Devotion-April 14

Scripture for today Isaiah 53:4-5

Alas! and did my Savior bleed  
And did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For sinners such as I?

Refrain

*At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,  
And the burden of my heart rolled away,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
And now I am happy all the day!*

Was it for crimes (sins) that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut his glories in,  
When Christ, the mighty Maker died,  
For man the creature’s sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face  
While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt my eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne’er repay  
The debt of love I owe:  
Here, Lord, I give myself away  
’Tis all that I can do.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

When we really realize what Christ has done for us can we really see the light of His love and mercy, the burden of sin and guilt is rolled away and by faith, by believing in Him is the only way to know this love and forgiveness that will lead to happy days!

1. Alas is an expression of grief, pity or concern. What did our Savior do?

2. Who died?

3. What did He devote? For whom?

4. Verse 2: Whose sin? What did He do?

5. Amazing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_unknown!

And \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ beyond degree!

6. Verse 3: What did the sun do?

7. What did it shut in?

8. How is Christ described here?

Who and what did He die for?

9. Verse 4: What might we hide?

10. When what happens?

11. What should happen to our hearts?

Our eyes?

12. Verse 5: What cannot repay?

13. What is the debt we owe?

14. What are we saying we will do?

15. Why?

16. Chorus or Refrain: Where was the light first seen?

17. What was rolled away?

18. How do we receive our sight?

19. What does this light and sight do to us?

CHRIST JESUS LAY IN DEATH’S STONG BANDS

Hymn Devotion - April 15

Scripture - Ephesians 1:18-20.

I Corinthians 15:55

Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands,  
For our offenses given;  
But now at God’s right hand He stands,  
And brings us life from Heaven.  
Wherefore let us joyful be,  
And sing to God right thankfully  
Loud songs of Alleluia! Alleluia!

It was a strange and dreadful strife  
When life and death contended;  
The victory remained with life;  
The reign of death was ended.  
Stripped of power, no more it reigns,  
An empty form alone remains  
Death’s sting is lost forever! Alleluia!

So let us keep the festival  
Where to the Lord invites us;  
Christ is Himself the joy of all,  
The Sun that warms and lights us.  
By His grace He doth impart  
Eternal sunshine to the heart;  
The night of sin is ended! Alleluia!

Then let us feast this Easter day  
On the true Bread of Heaven;  
The Word of grace hath purged away  
The old and wicked leaven.  
Christ alone our souls will feed;  
He is our Meat and Drink indeed;  
Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Translated by Richard Massie (1800-1887)

What a glorious thought – Christ alone feeds our souls – faith lives upon no other. Bringing eternal joy and sunshine –

Praise God

1. Where did Christ lay?

2. Why?

3. Where is He now?

4. What does He bring us?

5. How should we be?

6. What should be the attitude of our songs?

7. How should our songs be sung?

Alleluia means Praise to God.

8. Verse 2: How is the strife described?

9. What are contending?

10. What remained victorious?

11. Whose reign was ended?

12. What was death stripped of?

13. What remains of death?

14. What is lost forever?

15. Verse 3: What must we keep?

16. Who is inviting us?

17. What is Christ Jesus to all of us?

18. What does the Sun do?

19. What does He impart (give a share of)?

20. What does that give to our heart?

21. What has ended?

22. Verse 4: What are we to do this Easter

Day?

23. On what?

24. What has the Word of grace done? (use the complete statement)

Leaven is sin.

25. What will Christ alone do?

26. What is He?

27. What lives upon no other?

28. We all say together: